

Commons debate put off to autumn

No 10 admits Maastricht bill seems doomed

By Robin Oakley in Rio de Janeiro and Nicholas Wood in London

THE government signalled yesterday for the first time that it might not be able to save the Maastricht treaty.

John Major, who is facing a revolt that has cast doubt on cabinet unity, indicated in Rio de Janeiro that hopes are fading that the 12 European Community states will be able to sign the treaty, which paves the way to closer political and economic union.

It was disclosed in London that all Commons debate on the bill to ratify the treaty and on the implications of the Danish referendum will be postponed until at least the autumn. Yesterday, a senior cabinet minister said he was "not seeking to excite expectations" of such a debate before the House rose for the summer recess. There is also growing doubt that the problem can be solved during Britain's six-month presidency of the EC, which begins next month.

In another sign that Mr Major is bowing to ministerial and backbench pressure to

abandon the bill, Downing Street sources admitted that it could be doomed. They said that if the Irish and French referendums on Maastricht resulted in rejection, the fate of the bill would need to be "radically reassessed". However, the official position remained that the government had not given up hope of a breakthrough. "As things stand at the moment, even with the Denmark vote, we intend to move ahead with ratification," one Downing Street official said.

The tactical retreats in London were in stark contrast to statements by Mr Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, immediately after the Danish vote. They emphasised that Britain intended to press ahead with ratification of the treaty.

According to officials travelling with the prime minister, Mr Major has abandoned hope of an early solution and believes that everything is up in the air until the Danes tell the other 11 what they really want. He is also furious with President Mitterrand for calling the French referendum on ratification of the treaty. He believes that the poll has been called to meet Mitterrand's domestic difficulties and that it risks wrecking the deal. He fears that the French may vote down the treaty merely because of Mitterrand's deep unpopularity.

Mr Major believes that the Irish will endorse the treaty in their referendum next Thursday but, even if they do not, some accommodation could be found. However, he concedes that a French no vote or a further rejection of the treaty in a second Danish referendum would kill it stone dead. Mr Major will not countenance any effort to expel the Danes or to ease them out of the Community, insisting that there is no mechanism for doing so. He has no hopes of early moves to settle the affair at the European summit in Lisbon at the end of this month.

The prime minister is said to believe that he has "squashed" the government's problems over the Maastricht bill. Mr Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, remain convinced that the treaty made an important breakthrough towards ending the drive for centralising power in EC institutions.

They fear that gains won for Britain would be undone if the treaty were opened up for renegotiation.

The disclosures came as the internal Tory feud over Europe raged unabated in spite of attempts by the prime minister and Richard Ryder, the chief whip, to restore party discipline. Conservative Euro-sceptics stepped up their criticism of the government's position by demanding the head of Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission. The pro-Europe lobby hit back with a venomous attack on Peter Lilley, one of the cabinet rebels, describing him as "an immature cabinet upstart, a teatime plonker, still wet behind the ears".

Meanwhile, Kenneth Clarke warned EC ministers in Lisbon last night that Europe had enough problems over the treaty without seeking a new confrontation with Britain over border controls. The government is under pressure to lift passport checks from January on travellers arriving at British ports and airports from inside the EC, but it is insisting that immigration officers should still be allowed to separate EC citizens from non-Europeans.

The home secretary said that Britain would do its best to "minimise administrative inconvenience" for Community travellers while not abandoning effective immigration control. However, he told his colleagues not to add to the EC's difficulties.

While Britain remains isolated over its legal interpretation of the EC treaty, a sizeable number of states appear ready to acknowledge the practical and political problems which are slowing down the abolition of frontier checks. However, one Commission official said that Ireland, which has previously been closest to Britain, had shifted towards the majority in favour of abolishing all internal EC frontiers.

Mr Clarke reminded his colleagues that the issue of border controls was a political and not merely a legal issue. He said he would hold further talks with Martin Bangemann, the commissioner dealing with the issue, this autumn.

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German demand, page 13
Peter Riddell, page 16

MFI flotation will net executives up to £35m

By Jonathan Prynn

THE directors and senior managers of MFI, Britain's biggest furniture retailer, will receive shares and bonuses worth up to £35 million when the company is floated on the stock market in July.

MFI was the subject of what was at the time Britain's biggest management buyout in 1987. The buyout was financed with almost £500 million of borrowings. One City analyst said the MFI directors had "been to hell and back" during the recession to keep the com-

pany financially healthy. The managers who participated in the buyout put £600,000 of their own money into the transaction and will own about 3 per cent of the company after the flotation, which is expected to value MFI at about £800 million. A quarter of the shares will be made available to the public. The company, chaired by Derek Hunt, a former policeman, has 174 superstores throughout the UK.

Return to market, page 21

Dancing invalid sends US lawyers reeling

From Charles Bremner in New York

SIX months after the trial of William Kennedy Smith, the icy Palm Beach prosecutor, is back in the glare of the cameras, this time in the case of the dancing invalid.

With the exception of sex, the case embraces every one of America's favourite obsessions — money, doctors, lawyers and detectives. At immediate issue is whether William Lenahan, a retired police detective known to the media as Uncle Bill, the dancing invalid, faked brain damage to win a lawsuit against a surgeon.

In the broader sense, Mr Lenahan and his wife are joined in the dock by the army of lawyers and expert medical witnesses who make a fat living from malpractice suits against the American medical profession. Two years ago, Mr Lenahan, 67, brought a

jury in Boca Raton, Florida, to tears with his pitiful performance. He could not recall the month, the year, or the name of the president. Asked how many nickels made a dollar, he could only reply: "A whole bunch, I guess." He puzzled over how to put his arms through his coat-sleeves, and when asked if he knew where he was he raised his eyes to the ceiling and answered: "Church".

Half-a-dozen highly qualified medical experts, well paid for their time, vouched for Mr Lenahan's terrible mental impairment since he underwent a seemingly simple back operation for a ruptured disc. The jury had only one question: would \$2.5 million (£1.3 million) be enough recompense for his suffering at the hands of Douglas Martin, his neurosurgeon? The invalid's suit is now the subject of criminal action and general merriment because Dr Martin smelled a

rat and put a private detective on Mr Lenahan's tail. The gumshoe came back with a videotape of Mr Lenahan dancing a jig, sprinting upstairs and jogging behind his wife's Cadillac outside their new holiday house in the Florida Keys. He could also be observed decorating his yacht, for which he paid \$250,000.

The Palm Beach prosecutors arrested Mr Lenahan and his wife and charged them with fraud and handed the case to Ms Lasch, who now handles white-collar crime after being transferred from the sexual assault department from which she fled the Kennedy case. The insurance company which paid the damages is suing Mr Lenahan's lawyer for the \$700,000 which he earned in fees from the award. However, Mr Lenahan and his family are not taking the case lying down. They told the jury earlier this week that he no longer

functioned as a father and husband, although he had moments of lucidity. Under questioning from Ms Lasch, Leighton Richmond, a brother-in-law, said: "Bill is a very frustrated person. He's aware he's lost something."

The big question, should the Lenahans be convicted, is how so many learned doctors got it wrong. "We were impressed by all those 45-dollar words," said one member of the award jury, alluding to the cost-per-word of expert testimony. Most of the plaintiff's experts are not commenting, though one neuropsychologist said he did not rule out a miracle. People had been known to recover suddenly from blindness and paralysis, he said. Ray Lopez, a Miami neurologist, testified that the video of the apparently fun-loving Mr Lenahan was not inconsistent with a "variable condition".



Madame whistler: Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, refereeing yesterday as Westminster's heavyweights warmed up for the Lords and Commons annual tug-of-war clash, to be held next Monday

Two held over PC's shooting

By Paul Wilkinson

TWO men were last night being questioned about the murder of a special police constable in North Yorkshire at the weekend. The men were arrested in neighbouring West Yorkshire as one apparently tried to buy a suit at a shop in Pontefract.

Detectives from Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch and North Yorkshire police travelled to West Yorkshire last night to interview them. North Yorkshire police would only confirm that two men had been detained for questioning. One of the men was being held at Pontefract police station, the other at Normanton, about six miles away.

Shoppers in Pontefract reported intense police activity in the town centre shopping precinct during the afternoon and then saw two men spreadeagled at gunpoint in the market area. Several armed police officers were involved in what appeared to be a well-planned operation.

Pontefract is four miles from the wood near Burton Salmon in North Yorkshire where the gunman's burnt-out Ford Sierra car was found abandoned early on Sunday morning. Glenn Goodman, a newly appointed special constable with North Yorkshire police, had been fatally wounded less than 30 minutes earlier as he and a colleague checked a suspicious car near Tadcaster.

Labour balloting enquiry demanded

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Labour party leadership was last night facing demands for an enquiry into allegations of ballot-rigging in shadow cabinet elections.

Westminster echoed to unsubstantiated rumours of deals involving Labour MPs handing their blank ballot papers to unnamed back-room fixers for them to fill in and help selected candidates. In return, the rumours claimed, the MPs had been given favours.

In a fresh twist, a frontbencher declared that it had been usual practice for the ballot box containing the votes of Labour MPs to be opened on the night before the ballot closed. It is being alleged that the power-brokers have then used the blank votes at their disposal to help candidates whom the partial count has suggested may be

lagging or to deny votes to unfavoured candidates who are doing well.

Some MPs claimed that the allegations had been inspired by an attempt to damage the chances of some of those facing re-election in the imminent shadow cabinet and internal party elections.

Bryan Gould, MP for Dagenham and a candidate in the Labour leadership contest on July 18, demanded a full enquiry. He said: "I think anybody who has been involved in, either as direct participants, as voters or candidates, or anybody who has observed closely, shadow cabinet elections over recent years, will know that blank ballot papers are in the possession of some campaign managers." An enquiry should be held by the Parliamentary Labour Party to examine how some camps had access to blank ballot papers and what use they made of them, Mr Gould told a news conference.

Jeff Rooker, MP for Birmingham Perry Barr, has tabled a motion for debate by the Parliamentary Labour Party on a motion calling for internal party elections to be scrutinised by the Electoral Reform Society. He is to meet Stan Orme, chairman of the PLP, next week, to discuss a debate on his motion. A Labour spokesman said last night that there had been no official request for an enquiry.

Ron Davies, MP for Caerphilly, a former candidate for

Continued on page 20, col 1

Green charter agreed at Rio

From Michael McCarthy and Robin Oakley in Rio de Janeiro

A CHARTER for greening the world's economic growth was accepted unanimously yesterday by the 178 member states of the United Nations at the Earth summit in Rio de Janeiro.

While negotiations on new aid for the Third World and on conservation and management of forests dragged on, officials from all countries managed to agree to the conference's statement of 27 principles on its central objective of sustainable development, to be known as the Rio declaration.

Parts of the declaration had earlier been disputed, particularly its scanty reference to the problems of population growth — dealt with in four words — and its formal acceptance of the special responsibility of the industrialised countries to bear to care for the world's environment, because of their pollution record and their riches. A smaller but potentially sharper obstacle was the declaration's reference to "people under oppression, domination and occupation", to which Israel took strong objection. However, a deal was struck by the Americans on Israel's behalf yesterday, by which the reference will be removed from the summit's giant work programme, Agenda 21, while remaining in the declaration.

Although not legally binding, the Rio declaration is a considerable political commitment for Britain and every other country to merge environmental concern with economic decision making.

Britain is expected to announce a significant increase in aid for rainforest conservation and a stepped-up contribution to the Global Environment Fund in the closing stages of the Earth summit.

● Panama City: President Bush was hurried to safety from a platform here yesterday as he was about to speak, after riot police fired tear gas at hundreds of anti-American demonstrators, massed about 150 yards away behind barbed wire.

Mr Bush and President Endara were led away as hundreds of people, choking from the gas, scattered from the Plaza Porras. (AP)

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Leading article, page 17

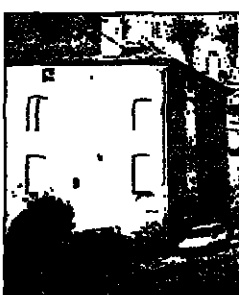
TODAY IN THE TIMES

THE BIG ILLUSION



Valerie Grove looks at the myths of marriage and asks if our demands on it are impossibly high
Life & Times
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THE BIG BARGAIN



Fancy a house in the Dordogne, with oak floors and a wine cellar? A snip at £14,950
Life & Times
Page 5

THE BIG SLEEP



Jonathan Sale tells how a relaxing holiday led to long-term difficulty in staying awake
Life & Times
Page 7



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Walk on part: a 200ft footbridge being hoisted into place over the Aire in Leeds yesterday. The £400,000 bridge is the city's first new river crossing for over a century

Fraud office wins appeal against right to silence

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE right of defendants to remain silent in the face of enquiries by Serious Fraud Office investigators was dealt a possibly fatal blow by a House of Lords ruling yesterday.

Five law lords unanimously allowed an appeal by the Serious Fraud Office which reaffirms the wide investigative powers of the office to compel people to answer questions, with the sanction of a fine or imprisonment for unreasonable refusal.

The ruling overturns a High Court ruling in November that once a person has been charged with an offence, he is entitled to the traditional right of silence and need not comply with the SFO's extensive questioning powers under the Criminal Justice Act 1987.

The lords' ruling may be challenged in the European Court of Human Rights. In the meantime it will undoubtedly strengthen the hand of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, now looking

at the right to silence. The commission is expected to make proposals to the right to silence with a recommendation that the defence must disclose its case by a certain point before the trial.

Lawyers condemned the ruling. Stephen Gilchrist, a criminal practitioner, said the ruling was "yet another notch down the road to erosion of the right to silence and a blow generally for civil liberties". He said it was disturbing that the law lords took the view that the powers of the SFO took precedence over the protections for defendants enshrined in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

Paul Phippen, of Macfarlanes, who also has experience of fraud cases, said the decision appeared an unhappy one. "The SFO powers are a very considerable invasion anyway into the right to silence and one might have expected that once charged, the normal right not to incriminate oneself would

come back into play." However, Charles Buckley, of Garstangs, and solicitor to Wallace Smith, the company director who had brought the original case contesting the SFO's powers, said that the law lords' ruling left open the possibility of remaining silent. "We note that the lords have indicated the SFO may ask questions; they have not ruled on the circumstances in which a person may decline to answer those questions."

In November, the High Court rejected argument that the SFO's investigative powers overrode the normal right of those under investigation to remain silent. The case in which the issue was raised centred on Mr Smith, chairman and managing director of Wallace Smith Trust Company.

Lord Justice Mustill said yesterday that in April last year Mr Smith informed the Bank of England the company was in financial difficulty. Later the SFO informed him it intended to interview him and told him in a letter: "Unlike a police interview, you will not be given what is called a caution. Under the Criminal Justice Act 1987 you are obliged to answer truthfully questions put to you." He was told he could be prosecuted if he lied or refused to answer questions.

The High Court granted Mr Smith an order requiring a caution to be given — to the effect that he was not obliged to answer any questions relating to the charge brought against him — before he was called on to comply with the SFO notice seeking information.

Lord Justice Nolan said in the High Court there was nothing in the 1987 act to suggest that the SFO's power to investigate suspected serious or complex fraud allowed the exercise of that power without caution against a person whose affairs had already been investigated to the extent of a charge being laid against him. The situation would have been different had the SFO served its notice before Mr Smith had been charged.

Maxwell pensions enquiry considered

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN INDEPENDENT enquiry is being considered to determine whether the government is liable for compensation for the 32,000 pensioners affected by the Maxwell scandal, it emerged yesterday.

William Reid, the Parliamentary Ombudsman has written to Alf Morris, Labour MP for Manchester Wythenshawe suggesting that the pensioners submit, via an MP, any evidence they have of maladministration in the trade and industry department. Mr Reid points out that he cannot start an investigation unless he is given evidence of administrative fault on the part of the department complained about and that the complainant has suffered because of it. He spells out at least two areas where this could have happened in a move which appears to encourage the pensioners to pursue their case.

Mr Morris, who has several constituents who are Maxwell pensioners has now written to Ken Trench, chairman of the pensioners group, enclosing a copy of the letter and suggesting that they gather the necessary evidence. He pointed out yesterday that an investigation by the Ombudsman following the Barlow Clowes affair led to £160m compensation.

It is understood the pensioners are already seeking legal advice to pinpoint areas where maladministration might have occurred. The commissioner's letter says there have been complaints that regulations governing the powers of the trade and industry department do not protect pension fund members.

"I have no power to question the content of regulations. If however there were evidence that representations against the adequacy of what was proposed in them had been made to the DTI and DTI had ignored them or brushed them aside, that might be a matter to which I could consider," he says.

Cash found, page 21

Man who raped at knifepoint given 20 years

By LIN JENKINS

A RAPIST who attacked his five victims at knifepoint within yards of his home was jailed for 20 years by the Old Bailey yesterday.

Judge Richard Lowry said that Edward Bartley had shown no remorse and he could see no hope for his future. "Everyone who has heard this case is appalled at the torment which each woman suffered at your hands. Everyone is conscious of the misery you inflicted, the degradation."

"Over a period of three and a half years, in some dark corner of your mind you conceived and carried out these terrible attacks. You must have been out walking the streets of Battersea watching for an opportunity with women who were alone and vulnerable."

Bartley attacked all his victims near his home in Battersea, south-west London. He always wore a mask, carried a knife and avoided talking to the women. Two had left the country after the attacks and all were psychologically scarred for life.

Bartley, 32, who denied the attacks, was convicted with the help of DNA genetic fingerprinting. The jury was told that the chance of his not being the rapist was 860 million to one.

Jewellery stolen from his victims was recovered and when police arrested him he was wearing a blazer from which one of his victims had ripped a button. She had kept the button, which Bartley had not replaced.

Bartley was convicted of three charges of rape, one of indecent assault, one of burglary and five charges of robbery. He carried out his first attack on a 25-year-old secretary in July 1987 as she walked to a friend's flat after locking herself out. He stole her jewellery, which was later recovered, and raped her. The court was told that the ordeal had left her so shattered she had emigrated to Canada.

Two years later he raped an 18-year-old receptionist who had been asleep waiting for her boyfriend in his car. Bartley held a knife at her

throat and raped her in the back of the car.

The third victim, a 25-year-old computer operator, found herself in a lift with him when she returned home from work late one night. He forced her past her flat and raped her in a stairwell. She ripped off his distinctive blazer button and still had it in her hand when she got home.

Genetic fingerprinting was in its infancy and it was only then that police realised they were looking for one man. Operation Mandrill was launched.

Bartley struck twice more. He dragged a 24-year-old secretary into Battersea Park and assaulted her after her



Bartley: wore mask to attack five victims

boyfriend had stormed off during a row. He threatened the fifth victim, a Swedish student, with a knife as she made her way home from a night club. She fought and screamed and he eventually ran off after indecently assaulting her. She abandoned her studies and returned home after the attack.

Peter Cooper, prosecuting, said that all the victims needed counselling and still suffered nightmares. One had been so distraught by what had happened that she kept it secret from her family. Her boyfriend believed that she had been the victim of a knifepoint robbery.

More than 900 men aged between 25 and 35 gave samples for DNA testing to help the police case against Bartley.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tube bomb scare delays commuters

Thousands of commuters were delayed last night as London Underground came to halt after a radio station received a call saying that bombs had been placed on the Underground. The security alert, following an explosion on Wednesday night near the House of Commons, closed several stations during the rush hour. Only a handful of trains were running. Offices near main stations were also evacuated.

Security has been tightened for the Trooping the Colour ceremony tomorrow. Scotland Yard yesterday reviewed arrangements for the ceremony which will be attended by leading members of the royal family, cabinet ministers, foreign diplomats and hundreds of spectators.

The bomb on Wednesday was a 2lb device which exploded just before midnight in a pedestrian precinct near the Army and Navy stores in Victoria. No one was injured in the blast which was heard in nearby New Scotland Yard and the Palace of Westminster.

Laura off respirator

Laura Davies, the four-year-old British girl who underwent a 16-hour liver and bowel transplant in the United States, from Eccles, Greater Manchester, was taken off a respirator at Pittsburgh children's hospital, Pennsylvania, which reported that her condition was still critical but had stabilised. Doctors were pleased with her progress but the next three days would be crucial, the hospital said. Staff would be "making sure her organs are functioning well, that she is not experiencing any respiratory distress, and that there are no signs of infection", a spokeswoman said. Laura's parents saw her briefly twice after the operation. They flew to Pittsburgh with their daughter on May 30 after well-wishers raised £350,000 to fund the trip and operation.

Princess in tears

The Princess of Wales was reduced to tears yesterday by the warmth of the welcome she was given outside a hospice on Merseyside. The Princess had unveiled a plaque opening the Queen's Court Hospice for cancer sufferers in Southport. Outside the hospice well-wishers had unfurled a banner saying "Diana, we love you". The Princess shook hands with people in the crowd and then suddenly covered her face with her hands and wept. She climbed quickly into the official car and was driven away. It was her first official engagement since the publication of two controversial books about her marriage. The princess went on to the Ashworth special hospital near Liverpool and opened an extension at the police training centre in Liverpool.

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Table makes £1.2m

A classic French 18th century writing table bought for £330,000 in 1981 sold for £1.2 million in an auction of continental furniture at Christie's in London yesterday. It belonged to Barbara Johnson, heiress to the Johnson & Johnson baby powder fortune, who bought the Badminton cabinet for a record £8.58 million in 1990. The writing table was part of a furniture collection formed by Margaret, Baroness Naime and Keith and her husband Comte de Flahaut in the early 19th century. The 164-lb auction made £5.676 million. Thirty six lots were bought in and the auction was 82 per cent sold by value.

A Fabergé Easter egg commissioned by the ill-fated Tsar Nicholas II for his wife made £1.7 million at Sotheby's in New York, a new saleroom record.

Banker loses job fight

A Lloyds bank manager who was demoted after taking out a loan from a rival bank for one of his customers lost his claim for unfair dismissal at an industrial tribunal in Birmingham yesterday (Craig Seton writes). Peter Harrison, 41, manager of Lloyds Bank in West Bromwich, West Midlands, borrowed £25,000 from the TSB to give to a local company, Vision Posters, after his superiors had refused the company's request for a loan. Mr Harrison was demoted for breaking bank rules and took his case to the tribunal, claiming constructive dismissal. Rejecting the claim yesterday David Pugsley, chairman of the tribunal, said: "There is no way in which we can order any compensation because the applicant was completely and utterly to blame."

Blaze closes station

At least 30 cars belonging to commuters were badly damaged last night when a fierce fire swept through buildings alongside Three Bridges station in West Sussex. The blaze was so fierce that many cars parked near the station were destroyed or damaged. Firemen's efforts to put out the flames were hindered by dangerous fumes given off by toxic chemicals stored in one of the buildings. Police closed the station and ordered all passengers to leave. Train drivers were told not to stop at Three Bridges. Police believe that the fire, which spread from a workman's hut, had been started deliberately, though investigations had yet to be opened. The station is on the main Network SouthEast Brighton to Gatwick line.

Miners expel MP

Kevin Barron, Labour's coal spokesman and a former miner, was expelled from the National Union of Mine Workers yesterday for breaching confidences after the Lightman enquiry. In 1990 a four-man union team was set up to investigate the NUM's finances and commissioned a report from Gavin Lightman, QC. He was sued by the union for publishing his report as a paperback book. In October 1990 a union conference accepted the findings of the four-man team, but it was agreed that action should be taken against Mr Barron for passing information about the decision to Mr Lightman.

Sentence is increased

The Court of Appeal yesterday replaced a killer's two-year probation order with two years' youth custody. The order imposed on Desmond Brown, a trainee surveyor, by Judge Lyberty, Common Sergeant of London, had been challenged by the attorney-general. The teenager had been found guilty of the manslaughter, by stabbing, of Christopher Barrell, 21, a former soldier, in a confrontation at Chadwell Heath, Essex, but the jury had asked for mercy.

Chess leaders

As the world chess Olympics in Manila move into the third and fourth rounds the heavyweight teams are getting to clash (Raymond Keene writes). In the third round England drew 3-3 with Estonia while in the fourth round it administered a shattering 3-1 defeat on Slovenia. After four rounds the top-seeded Russian team leads with 13 points out of a possible 16 followed by England, Latvia and Uzbekistan on 12. Today is a rest day.

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Families offered wriggling waste bins

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CORRESPONDENT

A PLASTIC tub full of worms in the corner of your kitchen will not only help to save the planet but will save you pounds on your poll tax bill, according to a council in southwest London.

Sutton council is offering wormeries, plastic bins containing up to a thousand tiger worms, to selected residents to try to save up to £2 million a year on its waste disposal bill. The worms will eat all the organic waste of a family of four, except for meat and fish scraps. They produce compost and an odourless nutrient-rich liquid said to be ideal for feeding tomatoes.

Vip Patel, the council's environment officer, said that although the worms would live happily in the garden they were at their best in the warmth of a modern kitchen. "They like the same

temperatures we like," he said. Once inside their special home, converted from a standard kitchen bin with a filter layer and tap added, the 3in worms can eat their own body weight every 24 hours.

Tiger worms are natives of Britain and are being bred for the council at a farm in Devon. Their name derives from their distinctive stripes.

They have long been used by gardeners to help to compost waste and by anglers for bait, but they have never before been considered suitable members of a household. Waste disposal costs in London of more than £30 a tonne have prompted the move to bring them indoors.

It will take a family of four 12 to 24 weeks to fill the bin and the worms to gradually munch their way upwards through the vegetable matter. When they reach the top the householder is advised to scoop out the upper six inches,

containing the worms, and to use the remaining composted material on their garden. The worms can then go back in the bin to start work again.

The liquid, chemically similar to proprietary garden fertiliser, collects more quickly, producing a watering can-full every two to three weeks. Diluted in ten parts of water, the solution can be used on plants in and out of doors.

Sutton council has 1,000 of the wormeries to give away as part of a £400,000 experiment funded by the environment department to test ways of reducing the amount of household waste being dumped in landfill sites. If it succeeds similar methods could be adopted across the country.

Seven thousand residents of Carshalton Betches in the Surrey commuter belt have been selected to participate in the project. In return for trying out the wormeries they will have their refuse measured to see if they have cut down.

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French leaders applaud the Queen of regal chic

M Lang wore turquoise; M Mitterrand was in grey. Alan Hamilton reports on a colourful state visit

AS THE royal party entered the Musée d'Orsay on the third day of the Queen's state visit to France yesterday, observers gasped at the sight of an unmistakably French number by the fashionable couturier Thierry Mugler. Speculation raged over its precise shade: was it turquoise, pistachio or duck-egg blue? And should it really be worn with gingham?

Inside the suit was not the Queen, but her host for the day, France's pious-like minister of culture, education and power-dressing, Jack Lang, who is 52 but attempts to be 22. M Lang's wardrobe, frequently paraded in the National Assembly, also includes suits of plum and forest green, worn with a billowing silk handkerchief at the breast pocket. Some have Mao collars, others dispense with lapels.

M Lang's far out-dresses the President of the Republic, who favours shapeless grey flannel, and Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris, who tends towards the English pinstripe. Yesterday's outfit was one of his quieter numbers, described by a woman reporter from *Le Figaro* as "Très Proustien: he reminds me of the Comte de Charles in *Le Recherche du Temps Perdu*". Dorian Gray would appear to be the nearest English literary equivalent.

The Quai d'Orsay does not issue official descriptions of ministerial clothes, but couture is one of the few areas in which Buckingham Palace is happy to make formal statements. Yesterday's commu-

iqué spoke of a pink wool loose coat with stitched detail, worn over a dress of pink and beige silk print and a large grey straw hat trimmed with pink.

Debate became heated among observers, most of them ill-schooled in couture, on the precise shade of pink: strawberry, raspberry, petunia, blush or ice-cream. M Lang came immediately to the rescue. "Rose Buvard," he declared unequivocally. The French have a rose named after blotting-paper. "Her outfit is wonderful, so finely made," he enthused.

Whatever the exact shade of pink, the colour was perfect for a visit to what is now France's leading museum of late 19th century art, with its superb collection of Impressionists from Monet and Manet to Van Gogh. As a former railway station, it is an inspired art gallery.

Yesterday was M Lang's day. He is one of the most powerful ministers in government, controlling a culture budget that would make our own minister of fun and discreet dressing positively apple-green colour, bottle green or pea-green with envy. He is also a man never known to miss a photo-opportunity, or a chance to stand in front of a television camera. Other political figures have been exceedingly anxious to be associated with what is proving a highly successful state visit, with the Queen delivering all her public speeches in French and reiterating John Major's commitment to Europe after the stand-offishness of



Dressing down: Jack Lang escorts the Queen as she inspects a reclining nude statue at the Orsay museum in Paris yesterday

the Thatcher years. M Mitterrand, facing declining popularity at home after 11 years in office, has directed that the Queen be accorded the highest possible level of hospitality, and has been present at an unusual number of her engagements. He has even turned up when not

expected, lest others steal the limelight.

On Wednesday, as the Queen was being conducted around Paris by M Chirac, the city's mayor and M Mitterrand's implacable political opponent, the president arrived unexpectedly as the royal party were tour-

ing a Henry Moore exhibition in the Bagatelle Gardens, and each man seemed to vie with the other to be the closer to their visitor, gesticulating and explaining to the Queen while eyeing each other warily. After their tour of the Musée d'Orsay yesterday, M Lang

took the Queen on board France's high-speed train, the TGV, for a 190mph journey to Blois, the medieval fortress town which has M Lang as its mayor.

M Lang did, however, suffer one small misfortune yesterday: as he and his royal guest left their last engage-

ment in Paris, a large crowd applauded the Queen and shouted: "Vive la reine," then proceeded to boo their culture minister. Perhaps, of course, they just didn't like his suit. By the time he appeared in Blois he had changed into a discreet grey number.

Britain still lags in languages

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA
EDUCATION REPORTER

BRITAIN has yet to confront the educational implications of the European single market and must quickly catch up with other member states, according to a report published today.

The Overseas Students Trust says in its paper that Britain risks serious handicaps in the business and cultural environment of "post-Maastricht Europe", which will re-create the medieval ideal of a cross-continental educational culture.

Echoing calls by the National Association of Head Teachers a fortnight ago, the trust urges schools to teach foreign languages from as early an age as possible and to encourage a practical rather than strictly literary approach to linguistic skills.

Sir Kenneth Berrill, chairman of the steering group that produced the report, said: "We are typically uncomfortable in any European language except our own. If you are Dutch or Belgian, you have to learn a competence before you leave school and you have to keep it up," he said. "That is a tremendous handicap and we shall slide."

Sir Albert Sloman, chairman of the trust's seminars, said that radical changes in the pre-university curriculum were necessary. "So radical that it encourages people to specialise in a science and a language. In higher education there will have to be many more courses which combine study of a subject with the study of a language."

Children died in fire started by babysitter

By CRAIG SETON

A BABYSITTER who was praised for her courage in trying to rescue two children from a fire was given two life sentences at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday for causing their deaths.

The court was told that June Leaning, 50, had a compulsive fascination for lighting fires and had started the blaze in which Simon Graham, five, and his sister Lucy, two, died from asphyxiation as they slept at their home in Barton, South Humberside, in May 1989. She later told local newspapers that she had tried to get through smoke to save them.

Leaning admitted two charges of manslaughter and five charges of arson between February 1988 and July 1991. The court was told that she was excited by the sound of fire engines arriving and was responsible for starting other fires on the estate where she lived and was a regular babysitter for neighbours.

David Farrer, QC, for the prosecution, said that Leaning, a married woman with children, deliberately left a cigarette burning in the airing cupboard of the Grahams' house while babysitting. "She saw the flames rising and she closed the door, with the fire burning and the children asleep in a nearby bedroom," Leaning went downstairs to watch television. The court was told that Leaning, who lived in the same road as the Grahams,

told police that the first she knew of the fire was a bang when the lights went out.

Neighbours' efforts to reach the children failed and fire investigators were unable to establish the cause of the fire. Mr Farrer said that Leaning gave evidence at the inquest on the two children and attended their funeral. She continued to babysit in and started several more fires and made hoax calls to the fire brigade.

He said: "The motive seems to have been the excitement of provoking this kind of disturbance and being for a time the focus of that disturbance. It is the most extraordinary and unexpected case and to her neighbours Leaning was about the least likely a source of such a tragedy that they could imagine." The court was told that in 1988 Leaning



Leaning: left cigarette burning in cupboard

ing left a lit cigarette by a settee cushion of another house as she babysat for three children. She called her husband over and "discovered" the fire before putting it out.

Later, while babysitting for a boy at her own home, she entered his parents' house and started a fire. The following year she started another fire at her husband's parents' home, causing £7,000 of damage.

Leaning was caught after neighbours became suspicious when she was seen trying to start a fire in the porch of a house on the estate in July last year. Mr Farrer said Leaning was of limited intelligence and mentally ill. There was evidence that she had a grudge against the Graham family. He added: "It is only good fortune that there were only two victims. Leaning is a very dangerous woman."

Passing sentence on Leaning, who wept in the dock, Mr Justice Judge said she had caused unimaginable suffering to the parents of the dead children. He added: "No-one knows whether your condition will improve so that you can safely be released."

Graham, Buchanan, defending, said: "She is suffering from an illness, a sickness in respect of which there appears to be no medical treatment."

Linda Graham, 23, and her husband Neil, 26, the parents of the dead children, were in court for the hearing.

Rape gang link to M1 incident

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A GANG that raped two women in the back of a white transit van after ambushing their car on a road near Whipsnade Zoo in Bedfordshire on Tuesday may have tried to strike again.

Police are investigating a report from another motorist who told them that a white van flashed its headlights behind her on the M1 and signalled to her to pull over. The woman, who was with a female companion on Wednesday night, did not stop and told police after hearing of the earlier incident.

Detective Sergeant Trevor Bates, of Dunstable police, said: "It may be that it is totally unconnected but it is not dissimilar to the incident at Whipsnade." A big police operation was launched on Wednesday after police were contacted by a GP who had treated one of the victims.

The two mothers, aged 32 and 37, from Luton, were ambushed in daylight while on a shopping trip and raped in the van in an access road to the zoo. They had pulled down by the three men who told them there was something wrong with their exhaust.

Sgt Bates said that although police had interviewed one victim the other had so far chosen not to come forward. The van's registration number may include H and B. It has one passenger seat instead of the normal double seat.

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STOP PRESS FRANCE - WITH THE TIMES AND LBC

Last Minute Booking Bargains

An international rally-cross event and the remote control car regional championships are being held in Le Touquet this weekend. Travellers seeking a peaceful break should avoid the town.

The AA says that delays are expected on the M20 in Kent and the A2 just outside Dover. In France the N1 is closed at St Inglevert, south-west of Calais, and there are lane closures on the A62 and N10/N89 near Bordeaux.

TOFFERS

Canvas Holidays is offering special camping holiday packages. A two-week holiday for a family of four, for example, includes return flight from Heathrow to Nice, two weeks' car hire, tent, and travel insurance, for £270.50 per person.

The Orient Express has a special deal for Sunday travellers. For £750 per person it is offering a free night at the May Fair hotel in London on Saturday night (or a night at the Lido in Paris on Monday), travel on the Orient

Each week throughout the summer, *The Times* and LBC will bring you news of last minute bargains available for travellers to France. The latest information on bookings, flights, traffic delays and holiday ideas.

Express to Paris including meals, two nights and breakfast at the Ambassador Hotel in Paris and club class air travel from Paris to London on Tuesday.

Paris Travel Service has a Concorde offer for £385 per person. This includes an economy class flight from Manchester to Paris on June 26, two nights in a three star hotel and a return flight on June 28.

FLIGHTS

BA says that flights to Bordeaux, Marseilles and Toulouse are almost fully booked but there are seats to Paris, Lyons and Nice. British Midland runs eight



LBC NEWS TALK 97.3

flights from Heathrow to Paris every day (seven on Sunday) and has plenty of seats on all flights to France.

Air UK flights between Aberdeen and Paris are heavily booked this weekend but there are many unsold seats on flights from Stansted to Paris and Nice.

TAT, the French independent airline, is offering a round-trip fare of £160 from Gatwick to Paris or Lyon.

Air France has seats this weekend on flights to Paris

from Heathrow and London City.

FERRIES

P&O European Ferries recommends travellers to make reservations for all morning and afternoon sailings this weekend.

Hoverspeed is offering a £49 day return fare for a car and four passengers between Folkestone and Boulogne until June 25.

RATES

Travelers says that the franc is expected to continue falling, and advises travellers to exchange currency sooner rather than later. Exchange rates are between 10.35 and 10.38 when selling and 9.47 and 9.5 when buying.

Shona Crawford Poole, *The Times* travel editor, will be interviewed by Angela Rippon on her Drivetime programme next Thursday June 18 at 6.50pm, LBC NEWSTALK 97.3FM.

Intent cordiale L&T section, page 5

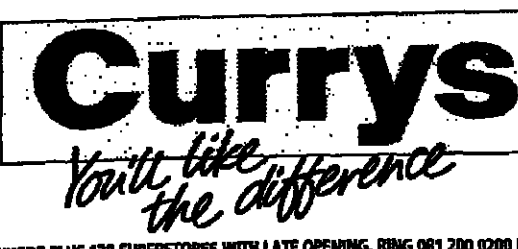
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Prince urges GPs to show human touch

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales called last night for a reaffirmation of traditional values in medicine and a recognition of the importance of the generalist in a world dominated by specialists.

Modern medicine was in danger of overlooking the needs of the patient in its rush to diagnose his disease, the prince told doctors meeting in London. The general practitioner was all that stood between the patient and the experts eager to be let loose on him. "How threatening and inhuman it would be if the individual who is sick had no one who knew him or her first and foremost as a person, and who was able to act as a guide and broker to the specialisms of medicine," he said.

In a speech which has been six months in preparation, the prince said that medicine had shown a "very strong tendency to specialisation" and that doctors had become "more and more expert in narrower and narrower fields." General practitioners provided an essential counter balance and their role needed to be further developed. The prince was delivering the inaugural John Hunt lecture to the Royal College of General Practitioners, of which he is this year's president.

But there were also fundamental principles that were under threat and needed to be preserved, he said. The

doctor-patient relationship was pivotal: "Patients value every minute you give them." But there was a "real danger that narrowly political considerations, conflicting commercial pressures and a sense of living in a state of flux, may eclipse the GP's understanding of his or her own role."

As an example he cited the move among GPs to end their 24-hour commitment. "I would like to ask you to question that view. Does it not say something important about general practice?" Suggesting the burden could be shared, rather than removed altogether, he said: "Public confidence in the role of the GP has been won through good old-fashioned commitment, humanity, integrity and lack of greed. Without these qualities, general practice would not have retained the affectionate respect that it still holds."

The prince said that there was a perception among some young doctors that they would end up as "over-stressed equivalents of supermarket managers." "There is something very wrong with the message being put across about the management of an independent practitioner's business if it is seen by those entering the profession as the equivalent of the supermarket." Some of the recent developments in general practice were questionable he said, such as the trend to

bigger practices. "It seems an unsafe assumption that the bigger the practice, the larger the number of attached staff and the bigger the premises the better. Too many health centres feel like mini-hospitals, with some of the same disadvantages."

Alternative medicine, a favoured topic in the past, was hardly mentioned except as one of the many services a committed generalist might offer, alongside nurses, counsellors, osteopaths, physiotherapists, health visitors, social workers and spiritual healers. This, he said, is the "vital ingredient" in good practice: a readiness to harness other people's skills. "This should not be seen as delegation of tasks that the doctor is too busy to do, or feels are too menial, but rather because there is a genuine belief that others can contribute 'better,' 'more' or 'different' services."

The prince said that there was a need for experimentation with other models of care in order to improve services to the homeless, commuters and the temporarily resident who were not registered with GPs, he said. But there was a limit to what doctors could do. Quoting Voltaire, he said the art of medicine consists of amusing the patient while nature cures the disease.

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Fighting back: Esther Rantzen, presenter of *That's Life*, speaking at the launch of Britain's first national anti-bullying helpline, in front of a picture of the late Mark Perry, a victim of bullying. Beside her is the columnist Nina Myskow who spoke about being bullied as a child. A million children a year suffer from bullying, helpline organisers say. Miss Rantzen said: "The line will offer practical advice for children and families... We hope schools will outlaw bullying — so that children understand it is not to be tolerated." The line will be open all weekend and then from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday on 071-378 1446/7/8/9.

ing, helpline organisers say. Miss Rantzen said: "The line will offer practical advice for children and families... We hope schools will outlaw bullying — so that children understand it is not to be tolerated." The line will be open all weekend and then from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday on 071-378 1446/7/8/9.

Scientists ready to strike over pay demand

British scientists want salaries to match those of European colleagues working on the same project. Nigel Hawkes reports

RESEARCH workers at the Culham laboratory in Oxfordshire were preparing to walk out on strike yesterday as Parliament debated the future of British science.

The one-day strike, the first of what is expected to be a series of walk-outs by British staff employed in fusion research at the Joint European Torus (JET), is in support of a claim for parity with European colleagues on the same project. The British scientists, employed by the Atomic Energy Authority, earn only half as much as colleagues employed by Euratom, the European Community body responsible for the project.

Although money is the main grievance, the British staff are also anxious about job security in the authority, which has shrunk from 14,000 employees to 9,000 in the past three years. Jeremy Goff, secretary of the local section of the Institution of Professional Managers and Scientists, says that staff employed by Euratom are being treated more sympathetically than those who work for the authority.

The management has rejected the scientists' pay claim, pointing out that they earn a 15 per cent bonus for working at JET. The authority said that for senior people, this "experience allowance" is worth £6,000 a year, simply for working on the other side of the fence dividing the JET laboratory from the authority's Harwell laboratory.

The management says that the scientists should wait until the end of the summer, when the EC commissioner Filippo Pandolfi is expected to complete an enquiry into the pay and conditions of EC research workers. The scientists, however, are prepared to wait no longer. After tomorrow's walk-out they plan further strikes, with the next likely to coincide with a meeting of the JET council at Culham next week.

Although the JET dispute has unusual features, it is part of a wider malaise affecting the careers of British research workers. In labora-

tories all over the country, staff complain of a shortage of money and a lack of a secure career structure.

The pressure group Save British Science believes that the appointment of William Waldegrave as science minister has changed the atmosphere for the better, but in circumstances where public spending is stretched to the limit he will be hard-pressed to meet their demands. Last year the group called for an immediate infusion of £1 billion for repair and replacement, plus another £400 million a year to correct what it sees as a deficit built up during the 1980s.

Barring miracles, Mr Waldegrave will not be able to meet these demands and has begun by concentrating on the structure rather than the financing of British science. He has promised to deliver a new plan by the spring of next year. There have been hints that some of the elaborate committee structure built up over the years might be pruned, with one option being the abolition of the Advisory Committee on the Research Councils.

Much more difficult will be improving the standards of living and job security of research workers. Research was once done by university lecturers with tenure. Today's researchers are likely to be surviving on small grants or going from one research contract to the next. Many are close to poverty, which explains why they often jump at the chance of more secure employment abroad.



Waldegrave: reforming the finance of science

Death in car window an accident

By NICHOLAS WATT

LUCINDA Richardson, aged 2, who choked to death after trapping her head in an electric window of her family's car, died accidentally, a coroner said yesterday.

Michael Burgess, the Surrey coroner, said Lucinda's death was a sad and tragic case which had implications for electric car windows. "I am quite satisfied from the evidence I have had that her death was accidental," A report has been sent to the transport department.

Lucinda's father, Douglas, told the inquest in Chertsey that he found his daughter trapped in the window of the front passenger seat of the family's Fiat Tipo.

Police Constable John Bridger, a police vehicle examiner who tested the Fiat's window, said that the car's manual could be misleading as it might give the impression that the windows could not be operated after removing the ignition key. In fact the front windows could be activated if one of the car doors was open. He said the car was not fitted with a pressure sensor which would have stopped the window.

It was impossible to know whether Lucinda closed the window accidentally or deliberately, the inquest was told. After the hearing Mr Richardson appealed to car manufacturers to introduce safety equipment to prevent a similar accident.

Crash man says he was fit to drive

A LORRY driver accused of killing six people after ploughing into a line of stationary motorway traffic said yesterday that he did not think he was unsafe to drive.

Vincent Parsons, 26, drove into the traffic jam on the slip road of junction six on the M42, it has been claimed. The prosecution said he did not even take his foot off the accelerator or swerve before he hit the traffic at 65mph.

Mr Parsons, of Newport, Gwent, denies six charges of causing death by reckless driving on November 6, 1990. He told Birmingham Crown Court: "Between junction five and six I was thinking about where I was going and what the time was. I was wondering if I would get away from the next drop before dinner. If I had seen any hold-ups I would have taken a different route. I was never conscious of being unfit to drive."

When asked by Richard Wakerley, QC, for the defence, if he felt sleepy or drowsy during the journey, he replied: "No." The court has been told that Mr Parsons had no recollection of any sign warning of roadworks on the slip road or of any stationary traffic.

"My last recollection is looking at my tachograph directly in front of me. Then I just remember being on the floor and the diesel tank was alongside the lorry on the left hand side."

The trial continues today.

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says he was
fit to drive

The crash may have been a result of a number of factors, including a lack of proper training and a failure to follow safety protocols. The driver, who was not fit to drive, was involved in a serious accident that resulted in significant damage and injuries. The investigation is ongoing, and the results will be reported to the public.

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*5-speed gearbox available as an option on Golf - cost £184. †Prices correct at time of going to press. Prices exclude delivery packages and road fund licence. Nissan delivery package costs £275 and comprises delivery to dealer, number plates and full tank of petrol. VW delivery package costs £295 and comprises delivery to dealer and number plates.

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Going places: a Parisian plans his Metro route

Paris overtakes London as model for public transport

LONDON has lost its position as the model of public transport provision for cities all over the world to its arch rival Paris, according to the first comprehensive comparison of transport in London and Paris, published today.

Armed with effective regional planning structures, generous levels of central government funding and a vision of what is needed to meet the challenges of the 21st century, Paris is setting the pace in modern urban transport planning while London is facing an uncertain future, the report said.

Fares in London are between two and three times higher than those for equivalent journeys on public transport in Paris because of the government's determination to reduce public subsidies while transferring running costs from the taxpayer to the user.

During the past 25 years Paris has built 30km of new Metro track, 107km of suburban and cross-city main lines and 500km of motorways. London, by contrast, has trailed behind with 28km of new Underground

Paris is setting the pace in modern urban transport planning as London faces an uncertain future, Michael Dynes reports

lines, 5km of main lines, and about 250km of new motorways, most of which is accounted for by the M25, London's orbital motorway, the report said.

Moreover, Paris has committed itself to a series of ambitious transport infrastructure schemes, including improved suburb-to-suburb connections, new rail links for direct connections to nearby regions and a network of underground motorways.

Although there are plans to extend London's public transport network with the proposed East-West Cross-rail and the Chelsea-Hackney line, neither is well advanced, while the planned extension of the Jubilee line between Green Park and Stratford via Docklands has been placed in limbo following the decision by Olympia & York, the developer of the Canary Wharf office complex and co-sponsor of the Jubilee line extension, to seek

protection from its creditors. The report, *London-Paris: A Comparison of Transport Systems*, provides a detailed comparison of transport provision in the two cities, confirming the widely held suspicion that Paris has the edge. "Rail transport in Paris offers a service which is clearly superior to that of London," the report said.

In the central area, for example, the Paris Metro has 196km of track, compared to 124km on the London Underground. In addition, with an average of 500m between stations in Paris, compared with 800m in London, Paris has twice as many stations as London. Paris offers a far more efficient service in the central area, although London provides a superior service in the suburbs.

The report, which was compiled by the London Research Council, a body established in 1987 by the 33 London boroughs following

the abolition of the GLC, and the Ile de France Regional Council's research arm, also said that public transport in Paris delivered far higher levels of quality than in London. Between 88 and 98 per cent of trains in Paris arrive on time, defined as being within five minutes of scheduled times, compared with between 83 and 91 per cent in London, the report said.

Although regional authorities shoulder the greater proportion of new public transport schemes in Paris, the state pays 70 per cent of public transport operators' running costs.

In London, apart from the absence of any effective co-ordinating organisation, there is no agreed investment programme. Funding decisions for new projects are made on an ad hoc basis by central government, and the state makes only a "feeble" contribution of between 10 and 15 per cent of running costs, the report said.

London-Paris: A Comparison of Transport Systems, (Stationery Office, £23.99)



Flaked out: disrepair on London Underground

EC offers to help pay for new motorways

FROM TOM WALKER
IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission said yesterday that it is prepared to help to finance the building of 7,500 miles of motorways to even out transport standards. The plans, which could increase by 32 per cent the amount of land covered by motorways, alarmed environmentalists.

The transport commissioner Karel Van Miert said that countries such as Ireland, Greece, Portugal and Spain had to be given the opportunity to build efficient motorway systems. About 40 per cent of the EC's spending on motorways will benefit these countries. The exact amount depends on Jacques Delors, the Commission president, persuading member states to boost the EC budget by up to £16 billion over the next five years. If the increase, resisted by Britain, is approved, up to half the new money may be spent on projects in poorer regions.

Friends of the Earth said that the Commission was going back on its word not to build motorways in developed parts of the Community.

The road links the Commission would be prepared to help to finance and upgrade to motorway standard in Britain and Ireland are (ferry links in brackets):

- Larne-Belfast-Dublin-Rosslare
- Belfast-Enniskillen-Sligo
- (Dublin)-Holyhead-Birmingham-Cambridge-Felixstowe/Harwich-(Benelux)
- London-Felixstowe/Harwich
- London-Exeter-Plymouth
- London-Peterborough-Leeds-Newcastle-Edinburgh-Dundee-Aberdeen
- Carlisle-Glasgow-Inverness
- Carlisle-Edinburgh
- Letterkenny-Londonderry-Belfast-Larne-Stranraer-Carlisle-Newcastle-(Scandinavia)
- London-Severn Bridge-Cardiff-Carmarthen-Fishguard-Pembroke-(Rosslare)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Violinist went too far on TV

The violinist Nigel Kennedy went too far when he seemed about to undo his trouser flies in front of millions of young TV viewers, the Broadcasting Standards Council said yesterday.

The musician told children that he had lost his underpants, invited the audience to send him some, and "appeared about to open his trousers", the council said. The episode went out on BBC1's Saturday morning children's show, *Going Live*, on March 14.

The BBC said it would have censored the gesture if the show had been pre-recorded. The council upheld a complaint made by a man from Suffolk.

Husband jailed

A jealous husband who hacked his estranged wife to death with a meat cleaver in front of her new boy friend was jailed for life by Inner London Crown Court. Galaxy Medezia, 31, who attacked his wife as she held their four-month-old baby at their home in Thamesmead, southeast London, was convicted of murder after a plea of manslaughter was rejected.

Train kills cows

Twelve cows were killed by a train when a herd strayed on to the London to Exeter line near Sherborne, Dorset. The 3.45pm Southampton to Yeovil train, with no passengers on board, was slightly damaged and the line was blocked for five hours.

Death leap fails

A man who jumped 100ft from the Humber Bridge was rescued by the crew of a passing boat after he was spotted by a waterskier looking for his ski. The unnamed man was seriously injured. Last night he was in a poorly condition at Hull Royal Infirmary.

Coronation stone stands its ground

By DAVID YOUNG

AN ANCIENT stone that is said to have been part of a coronation throne used by seven English Saxon kings and to have given the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames its name, is to stay on its traditional site.

The council has abandoned a plan, passed by the chairman's casting vote, to move the Coronation Stone, a weathered slab of sandstone, from its site outside the Guild Hall at Kingston.

The council had intended to move the stone 500 yards to the parish churchyard, where it was due to be unveiled and rededicated during a visit to the town by the Queen on July 29. However, the church authorities have ruled that church law forbids graveyard structures not directly related to the deceased.

The decision, which has been accepted by the council, ends several months of

controversy, with local historians and residents opposing the move. Many people had feared that shifting the anonymous grey block and its octagonal plinth would have exposed it to vandalism. In its present position, it is overlooked not only by the council offices, but by Kingston police station.

Although some people claim that the Coronation Stone was nothing more than a leg-up for Kingstonian horse riders, popular tradition has it that the stone formed part of a coronation seat used to crown seven Saxon kings, starting with Alfred the Great's son, Edward the Elder, in 900. It may also have given Kingston its name.

The Queen's visit will go ahead, but the rededication ceremony has been cancelled. The Queen will officially open a shopping complex.

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Imbert tells police to put integrity above success

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

POLICE officers must be prepared to lose cases and see criminals escape punishment rather than compromise their integrity, Sir Peter Imbert, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said yesterday. He told a national conference, attended by many of the country's chief constables, that the time had come for the police "to stop behaving as if it is our role to prop up an inefficient legal system. In a word we must be prepared to lose cases."

Addressing the joint summer conference of the Association of Chief Police Officers and police authorities in Eastbourne, East Sussex, he said: "I would far sooner see a hundred guilty people walk free than see one officer compromise his position and that of the service by interfering with evidence." The police could not continue to protest that many of the recent cases of miscarriages of justice concerned events that took place nearly 20 years ago and were the product of a different period of history. The police had to learn the lessons and move on.

Sir Peter said that the problems with police malpractice and attempts to get convictions by bending the rules did not apply only to recent well-publicised cases. There were instances not only of injustice but also of intransigence, rudeness or unfulfilled expectations suffered by members of the public. His force was

training officers to investigate more thoroughly and objectively and to provide a better overall service.

Sir Peter said that a Gallup poll in September showed that 77 per cent of the people asked about their attitude towards a number of national institutions had confidence in the police, a drop of 9 percentage points from 1981. Other institutions were rated much lower. The press, who were "our regular judge and jury", had dropped over the decade to 14 per cent.

Earlier this week Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, had told the conference that the police had to do more to reassure the law-abiding public. Yesterday Michael Hirst, chief constable of Leicestershire and a leading campaigner for change in the police service, had said there was evidence that the decline in public confidence had stabilised. Three Home Office surveys last August, November and February showed that satisfaction with the police by people who had come into contact with them dropped from 75 per cent last autumn to 71 per cent and rose again to 74 per cent in February.

Mr Hirst said that the alternative to a greater responsiveness to the public was a Los Angeles type of policing based on high technology, military discipline and insensitivity.

Private security companies could take over traffic policing, David Fletcher, head of a security industries association, told the conference. Contractors equipped with technology such as closed circuit television cameras could free the police for other work and defuse some of their tensions with the public, he said.

The police had already given up control of some traffic warden systems and contracted out wheel-clamping. Contractors could escort heavy loads on roads or enforce firearms licensing, Mr Fletcher said. The security industry was not hampered by the bureaucracy found in public policing, although he accepted that too many buyers were concerned with price and not service.

David Owen, chief constable of North Wales and an authority on the private security industry, said that suggestions of privatising traffic work oversimplified what was involved. The security industry needed proper government regulation. Could it be allowed access to sensitive information such as criminal records?

Pools win splits family

ALF and Kathleen Potts were told by a judge yesterday to give half of their £103,000 pools win to Alf's brother Bill — plus interest of almost £17,000.

For 30 years Bill Potts, 60, and Alf, 68, filled in separate coupons, always agreeing that if either won they would go halves. But when Alf and Kathleen won in 1987 they refused to hand over half the winnings. Hull County Court was told.

The dispute continued for five years. When the couples met to discuss the money at a public house Kathleen and Alf offered Bill and Margaret Potts £25,000.

Bill and Margaret, of Bilton, said that they should receive half, but Kathleen said that she had filled in the coupon so the agreement did not apply. Margaret disputed her claim and said that during the argument in the pub Alf had admitted that he had filled in the coupon. He then told his brother and sister-in-law that they would not get a penny, the court was told.

Alf Potts, of Hull, denied filling in the coupon. He said that the coupon was in his wife's name and did not come under the agreement. He said that the offer of the £25,000 was meant as a gift.

The court was told that the couples had divided other prizes of £170 and one of 90p when Alf Potts won.

Judge Mettrey said that the case revolved around whether the £25,000 offer was a generous gift or recognition of an obligation to pay. "I have come to the conclusion that the defendants are not the sort of people who would give away £25,000 and there was an obligation here," he said.

After the hearing Bill Potts said that the relationship between the couples had virtually ended.

Scots village lays claim to Peter Rabbit

PETER Rabbit, Mrs Tiggy-winkle, Mr Jeremy Fisher and Mr Tod the fox have returned to their Scottish roots. Almost 50 years after the death of Beatrix Potter, a commemorative garden containing bronze sculptures of some of the author's best-loved creations has opened in the village of Birnam, on the upper reaches of the Tay.

Most people have assumed that Potter conjured up the characters while living in the Lake District. But they evolved during her long summer holidays as a child in Perthshire, now Tayside, and were based on local people and animals.

She spent 12 successive annual holidays in Birnam and Dunkeld, on either side of the Tay, near the family's Dalguise House, "where the grass grows greener, the flowers thicker and finer, and the air is sharper", wrote the young Beatrix. She was allowed to wander through the fields and woods at will and it was here that she began her diary.

It was written in a tiny hand and in code because, as she wrote, "no one will ever read this". Letters of the alphabet were switched with each other and some letters were replaced by squiggles and signs. Fifteen years after her death in 1943, the code was cracked



Home ground: Emma Brown, 4, among the bronze sculptures in the garden commemorating Birnam's link with Beatrix Potter

Scots village lays claim to Peter Rabbit

The characters created by Beatrix Potter have been welcomed home... to a garden in Birnam, Tayside. Kerry Gill reports

by Leslie Linder, who was researching her life.

The diaries, later published, disclosed a remarkable account of her childhood in Perthshire and, more importantly, evidence that Peter Rabbit and his friends were modelled on local people and animals befriended by the writer and illustrator that the English had claimed as their own but. It was the summer holidays she spent in Scotland, it seems, that spurred her imagination.

The garden, conceived by Jim Todd, of Perthshire

Tourist Board, has taken four years to create. The characters were sculpted by the life artist David Annand and each has been placed beside a re-creation of his or her home. Paths trail through the flowers and fungi that Potter illustrated in her books. Her interest in plant life was encouraged by Charles McIntosh, a postman and naturalist.

According to Mr Todd, Mrs Tiggy-winkle the hedgehog was based on the family washerwoman, Kitty MacDonald. The author wrote that she was "a comical

round little old woman, as brown as a berry, and wears a multitude of petticoats and a white mitch close-fitting linen cap". Mr Jeremy Fisher, the frog with a tendency to exaggerate, was modelled on an angling friend of Potter's father, and Mr Tod was based on a tame fox that belonged to the gamekeeper.

The *Tales of Peter Rabbit* evolved from an illustrated letter she wrote from Perthshire to a sick friend. When Potter later wanted to achieve some financial independence she called on

Peter Rabbit, Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail and the rest. The first illustrated book was published in 1902 and cost a shilling (5p).

Potter's family was quite well off. She was born in Kensington, west London, in 1866. She and her brother were discouraged from seeing other children, who were feared to carry germs. They were encouraged, however, to have pets.

Much of their time was spent in the nursery and the trips to Perthshire must have been a welcome respite to their cloistered existence in London. Mr Todd said that Potter was virtually brought up in Birnam and Dunkeld, having visited the area from the age of eight to 20. During those years, she spent from May to October in Scotland.

The garden was created in recognition of the origins of the characters and the fact that there was this story to be told, he said. "When I tried to interest people I got a lot of support as it was fairly well known locally that these people were the basis for her characters. Beatrix Potter did buy a house in the Lake District, married and settled there. She left her estate to the National Trust, which probably gave impetus to the belief that the characters came from out of the Lake District."



Children's favourites: Potter and one of her characters, Mrs Tiggy-winkle



Export loopholes aid art smugglers

Weaknesses in official rules and the reward system hamper the fight against art crime, Sarah Jane Checkland reports

THE export system for art and antiques leaves many loopholes for smuggling, a detective told the International Art Theft Conference in London yesterday.

Detective Sergeant Richard Ellis, of Scotland Yard's art and antiques squad, said that the authorities relied on an exporter's description of an item, but that when a licence was issued there were no checks that the details on the application form tallied with what was in the container. Mr Ellis suggested rigorous spot checks.

He also condemned an irresponsible attitude in the fine art trade by which dealers avoided buying art they believed to be stolen but did not tell police that the items were being offered for sale.

He admitted, however, that there were few incentives for dealers to tell police if they suspected that goods in their possession were stolen. A dealer who unwittingly

bought a painting by Sir John Lavery which had been stolen from Ireland co-operated with the fine arts squad, but lost what she paid because the law demanded the painting be returned to its owner.

Mr Ellis described the complexities of retrieving art works that had illegally left their countries of origin. Apart from international differences in law on title, police and insurance loss adjusters had to contend with the undertakings by signatories to the UNESCO convention on the restitution of heritage items.

Earlier the conference was told that art theft informers were being discouraged because rewards were being held back. Informers from the underworld or the art trade are paid by police and insurance loss adjusters for

information after art thefts.

But a 1971 code drawn up by the insurance industry and police says that rewards will be paid only for "information leading to the recovery of stolen property and to the arrest and conviction of the thief", abbreviated in advertisements in the fine art press to "reward subject to the usual conditions". All too often, delegates were told, getting the stolen work back does not result in a conviction and the payment is forfeit.

Detective Constable Simon Muggleton, of Sussex police, said that another problem was that insurance firms frequently reneged on promises to pay a reward once goods were in police possession. Mark Dalrymple, a loss adjuster for Cunningham IAP, believed rewards should be

paid "with police approval", or when the operation has been completed to police satisfaction. A condition would be that the informant had no connection with the theft.

Detective Chief Superintendent Peter Gwynn, of City of London police, who was in charge of a recent operation in which a painting stolen from the Alfred Beit collection in Ireland was retrieved from the Euston area of central London, said that the public image of an informant was someone who was "sneaky and wearing a mac". But he or she could come from a variety of backgrounds, their services were useful and should be rewarded.

However, Ken Wright, head of security at the British Museum, said: "Rewards offered by insurance companies are to save costs. If we are not careful we will have a situation whereby people steal to get the ransom."

British Jews to investigate the rise of neo-fascism

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

THE rise of neo-fascism in western Europe is to be investigated by a commission being set up by the Institute of Jewish Affairs in London.

The institute, which researches subjects concerning the Jewish community, has become increasingly worried about extreme nationalism on the continent. The commission, to be chaired by the Labour peer Lord Clinton-Davis, is expected to examine the appeal of neo-fascism and why it has become so prominent.

Neo-fascism has not provoked such fear in Britain as it has elsewhere in western Europe, although the publication of racist and anti-Semitic pamphlets has increased. British Jews are worried that the rise in continental neo-fascism could

have serious knock-on effects here.

A prime example of what the commission will examine is the rise of Jean-Marie Le Pen, who visited Britain last December. M Le Pen, virtually ignored when he founded his extreme right National Front party 20 years ago, gained 13.9 per cent of the vote in the French regional elections in March, an advance from 9.8 per cent in 1986.

Opinion polls suggest, however, that many more of the French share his anti-immigration views. Mainstream politicians are learning to use his anti-immigrant rhetoric. The European Right group of nationalist MEPs, of which he is president, has no British members.

Anti-immigration views are

also gaining ground in countries such as Italy, Austria, Belgium and Germany. In Britain, an outpost of an organisation called Western Goals, based in America, lobbies against immigration and allegedly left-wing charities.

The commission, which will consist of Jews and non-Jews, is likely to suggest positive steps to combat neo-fascism. Members will invite people with relevant experience to submit papers or address it in person. It is likely to begin sitting this autumn, and report next year.

Anthony Lerman, director of the institute, said that it had to address the problem of neo-fascism and extreme nationalism. "This is a threat to the democratic system which all concerned people have to combat together."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wrens to sail royal yacht

Women sailors are to be allowed to serve on the royal yacht *Britannia* at every level, including captain, it was disclosed last night. Navy chiefs have decided to end the traditional all-male crew made up of 270 officers and ratings known as "yachties".

Cabins on the 412ft ship, used by the Queen and the royal family for overseas visits, are being prepared for Wrens. The 4,038-tonne yacht, presently moored near Bordeaux for the Queen's state visit to France, is based at Portsmouth, Hampshire.

A Royal Navy spokesman said: "The decision is part of our integration of Wrens into the Royal Navy's fleet."

Crash award

Louise Tait, 28, a beauty therapist of Lanchester, Durham, who lost her right leg and the use of her right arm in a motor-cycle crash when she was riding pillion, was awarded £297,983 damages in the High Court. The motorcyclist, Alan Jones, of Hooley, Surrey, and a car driver, Stephen Pitt, of Croydon, south London, admitted liability.

Running water

The National Rivers Authority is to hold a public meeting at Newbury, Berkshire, to discuss an application to take ten million gallons of water a year from the river Lambourn for racehorse gallops. The authority has already given a licence to a golf club at Donnington, near Newbury, to use millions of gallons from the river for watering greens.

Passenger dies

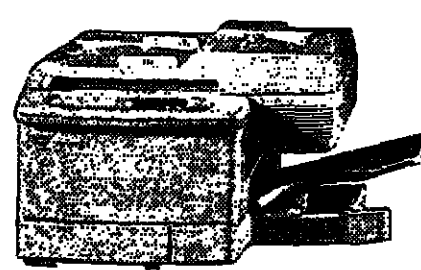
Caroline Wilkes, 22, of Bridgnorth, Shropshire, was crushed to death when a car in which she was a passenger struck two horses running loose on the Bridgnorth-Telford road. The driver Timothy Ward, 21, of Norton, Shropshire, was treated in hospital for whiplash injuries.

Church jobs go

The Church of England is to cut 86 jobs among clergy and lay staff in the Chelmsford diocese, the second biggest in the country. The cuts, blamed on the recession, will be achieved through natural wastage over the next four and a half years in parishes throughout Essex and five east London boroughs.

Brief theft

A 15-year-old thief who stole a car from outside a video shop in Tipton, West Midlands, returned it and apologised to the owner, Patrick McHugh, of Tipton, 15 minutes later when he noticed a child asleep on the back seat.



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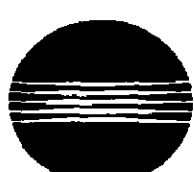
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Outcry over computer book that reveals virus techniques

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

POLICE are expected to ask publishers and book wholesalers to boycott a new book that shows how to make computer "viruses", the rogue electronic codes that can damage computers and destroy electronic files.

British experts who have seen the American book fear that it could lead to a rise in the number of teenagers attracted to computer crime. Edward Wilding, an adviser to Scotland Yard's computer crime unit and editor of the *Virus Bulletin*, said yesterday that the information given helped even the most computer-illiterate person to assemble pernicious codes. "We are already seeing viruses which have emanated from that book," he said.

The book, written under the name Mark Ludwig and published from Tucson, Arizona, is designed to appeal to the young and those with anti-establishment views. Around thirty pages attack suppression of virus writing as government censorship and a threat to free speech.

Jim Bates, another adviser

to the police, said it was planned to deal with the book in the same way as a recent German publication which carried details on how to build damaging electronic codes. It had hardly been seen in Britain after officers asked publishers and distributors for a voluntary ban.

Mr Wilding said that the police had been advised to act on the American book "by just about everybody in the industry... the German book is Mickey Mouse stuff in comparison to the Ludwig book." Judith Vincent, head of company and commercial law at the Confeder-

ation of British Industry in London, said: "We would be allied to any move to persuade publishers."

Since 1986, when the Brain virus appeared, more than 761 rogue codes and over 400 variants that infect IBM and compatible machines have emerged in increasingly sophisticated and damaging forms which can hide in personal computers, to be triggered later.

In March, a company in Britain found that data had been destroyed by the Michelangelo virus and similar incidents were reported around the world at firms and military installations.

Mr Bates said that even benign viruses could prove damaging by slowing down a computer's processing. He has been assisting the European Space Agency after maps of Earth beamed down by satellite were found to be askew because of fractionally slower processing speeds caused by a virus.

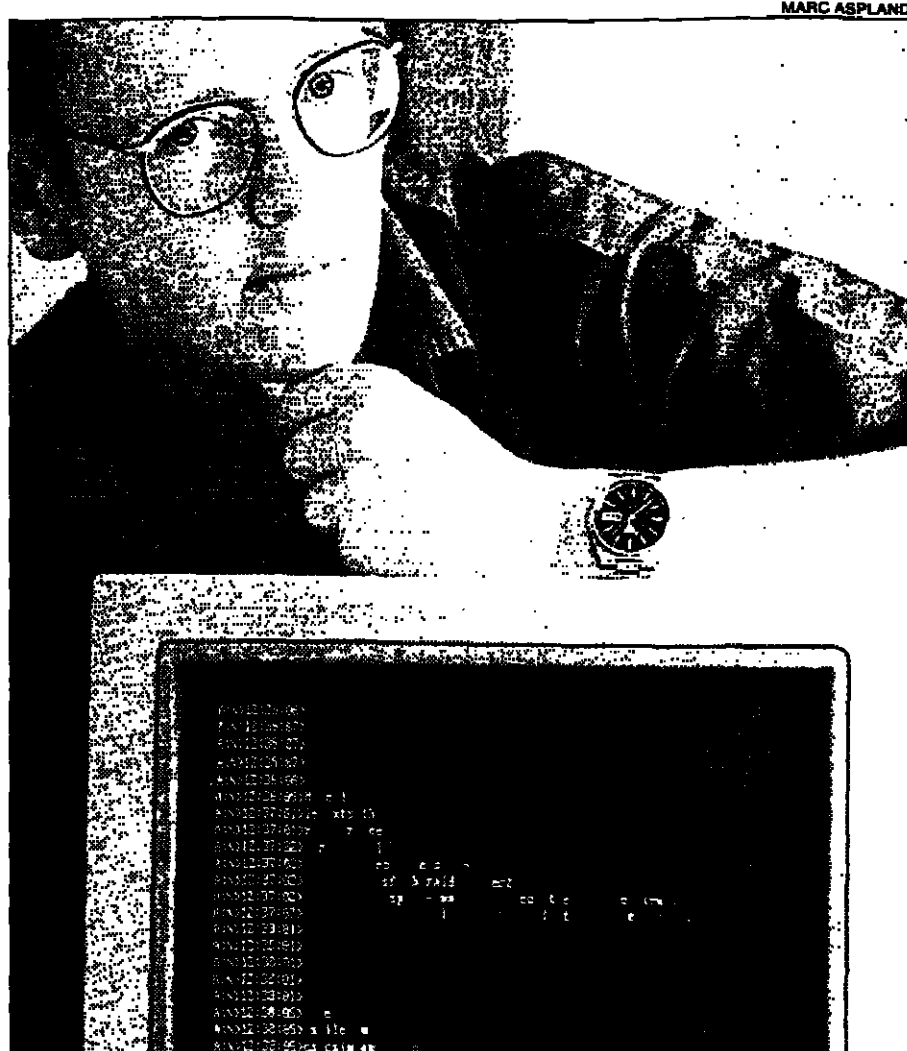
Concern over the impending arrival of the American book comes as a device called

the Mutation Engine is appearing on electronic bulletin boards across Europe. The device, released in Sofia, Bulgaria, is a guide on how to instruct a computer virus to mutate every time it infects a machine, making it more difficult to identify.

Experts also suspect that some virus writers in the former Eastern bloc and in poorer countries might be writing to order for some firms making detection software. The firms announce a virus is on its way and computer users buy the kits to protect themselves.

Whether such skulduggery is taking place is hard to confirm. What is certain is that many computer experts and the police believe the law on viruses is inadequate. Under the Computer Misuse Act 1990, infecting computers with viruses by means of floppy disks or by downloading them through telephone lines is a crime, but writing them and distributing information is not.

Leading article, page 17



Sick screen: Edward Wilding demonstrating a virus that makes letters vanish

Christian pupils get preference

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE governors of an over-subscribed Roman Catholic school were legally entitled to give entry preference to Christian children over non-Christians from the local Asian community, the House of Lords ruled yesterday.

Five Law Lords unanimously dismissed an appeal by the parents of two girls - one a Hindu, the other a Muslim - who wanted their daughters to be educated at the popular Bishop Challoner voluntary aided girls' comprehensive in Tower Hamlets, east London.

The parents had challenged a Court of Appeal decision last year that the school was legally entitled to continue giving priority to Christian children because there were not enough places for all applicants.

The appeal judges had rejected the parents' claim that "parental choice" should take precedence over the school's freedom to operate a policy of maintaining its religious character and ethos.

Breast-cancer units given care guidelines

By ALISON ROBERTS

THE first quality-assurance guidelines for NHS breast cancer surgeons and patients were published yesterday to ensure that women receive a uniform standard of care throughout the country. The guidelines, the first of their kind in the world, specify how many women should be visiting screening clinics and the time a patient should expect to wait for an operation.

The guidelines say that at least seven out of ten women should be accepting the invitation from a unit to be screened, and nine out of ten women should be admitted within three weeks of the decision to operate for treatment of a cancer. Units should be able to detect at least 50 cancers in every 10,000 patients and at least one in ten cancers detected should be at a stage before cancer is capable of spreading.

Modern methods detect breast cancer at an increasingly early stage. Nasseem Husain, chairman of the Women's Nationwide Cancer Control Campaign's medical advisory committee, said that mastectomy was no longer necessary in many cases and that the guidelines were to be welcomed for laying down a maximum number of mastec-

tomies that should be carried out in cases of early detection. "There are some people who would do a mastectomy in all cases, and, to some extent, I think there has been a resurgence in that way of treatment," Dr Husain said. "Now that we have the majority of the population under surveillance, there is a need to try to get more doctors to use conservative therapy."

The guidelines say that over half the women found to have small tumours should be treated by removing the cancer, but preserving the breast.

Breast cancer still accounts for one in five female cancer deaths. It is diagnosed in 26,000 women a year in the UK and is fatal to 16,000 of those. On average, 70 per cent of women visit screening clinics regularly, but as few as 20 per cent in inner-city areas accept NHS invitations.

Julietta Patrick, co-ordinator of the NHS Breast Screening Programme, said that the quality criteria would help surgeons to gain resources. If a surgeon could point to clear failings in a unit's standards, he might be able to argue for more funds.

Health,
Life & Times, pages 7, 8

Scientists 'trace planets'

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

AMERICAN astronomers said yesterday that they had found evidence that eight stars in our galaxy may be orbited by planets or other bodies.

The evidence is indirect. Since the bright light emitted by stars makes it impossible to see the much smaller and darker planets. The assumption has always been that stars other than the Sun do have planetary systems, but proof has proved elusive.

Kenneth Marsh and Michael J. Mahoney told a meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Columbus, Ohio, that they had inferred from infra-red signals that eight sun-like stars in Taurus-Auriga, a region 450 light years from Earth, had planets or other companion bodies. It is not possible to distinguish whether the bodies are planets, faint stars, or brown dwarfs - objects that might have become stars if they had been big enough.

Dr Marsh and Dr Mahoney analysed information from the Infra-red Astronomy Satellite and from ground observations in the early 1980s. They looked at young stars about the mass of the Sun and studied signals from the discs of dust and other material surrounding the stars.

David Black, director of the Lunar and Planetary Institute in Houston, Texas, said it was too soon to tell if Dr Marsh and Dr Mahoney had made a discovery.

Radiation alert after beach find

By OUR TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

THE discovery of radioactive sea animals on beaches in Cumbria has been linked with a damaged pipe that discharges into the Irish Sea from the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant.

British Nuclear Fuels said that the animals, groups of single celled creatures called hydroids, appeared to have been washed into the broken section and exposed to low level waste before being washed ashore.

Radioactive hydroids, which resemble long strands of seaweed and can be mistaken for coral or algae, were found last month on a nine-mile stretch of beach between St Bees and Drigg. Some had an unnaturally high reading of 1.5 millisieverts (mSv). The annual human exposure limit is 50mSv. This was caused by radioactive metals ruthenium 103 and zirconium 95.

Divers employed by British Nuclear Fuels have investigated the pipe and found more hydroids entangled in fishing twine and other flotsam and jetsam. The firm has concluded that the break in the pipe was made during engineering work last November and the faulty section has been replaced.

Professor Alan Pickering, of the Institute of Freshwater Ecology, said that the hydroids might have been dead when they entered the pipe. They are sheathed in a substance called chitin which absorbs metal particles even when they are dead.

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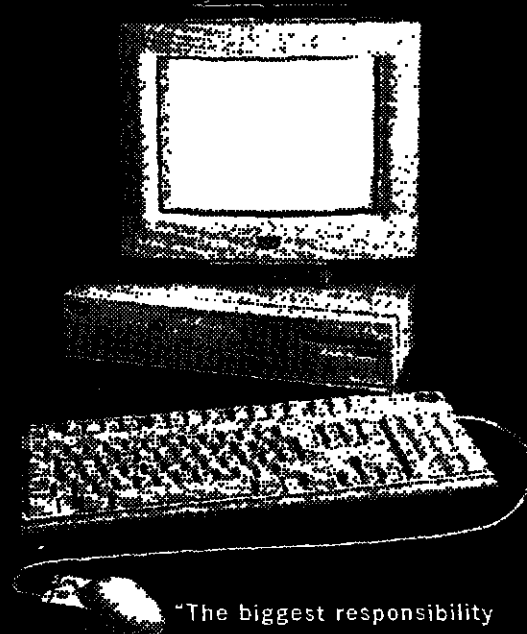
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Major ensures that champion of Tory right has little time for politicking



Portillo: daunting task in spending round

It has been a hard week for Michael Portillo. The chief secretary to the Treasury has been anointed by the high priests of the Tory right as the man to regain control of the party after the Major years, a period during which they sense their role will never be more than an advisory one. As a well known polo player could tell him, being their apparent at the start of what looks like a long reign is never an easy role.

In this week's cabinet convulsion over the Danish referendum fall-out Mr Portillo has been forced to choose between raising a torch for the right (who comprise the bulk, though by no means the full complement, of the Tory Euro sceptics) and ensuring that he remains an upwardly mobile member of the Major cabinet.

POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

By ROBIN OAKLEY

By his statement in Bogotá John Major may have risked prolonging the life of the "cabinet crisis" story. He may be a little optimistic in assuming that he has "squashed" the problem, the expression he uses to friends. But the cabinet Euro-sceptics are now hogged by their own statements and Mr Major's assertion of the cabinet's collective responsibility to the official line on Europe. It is difficult to see further ructions for while, at least at cabinet level.

As for Mr Portillo, he faces an even more daunting time. He has to conduct one of the toughest spending rounds in

recent years against the background of almost imperceptibly slow economic recovery. And Mr Major has added to his tasks.

Mr Portillo was charged with talking to spending ministers this year even before their bids went in, an indication of the severity of the expenditure problem. He has been asked not only to scan their plans for future spending but to examine the base lines too. The prime minister concedes that it is a target for a whole parliament.

But Mr Portillo has been asked in effect to comb through each department's existing expenditure as well as any bids made to increase it in coming years.

It is a tribute to the prime minister's regard for the abilities of his youngest cabinet

minister. It may also be a sign that he does not intend to leave him with too much time on his hands for politicking.

This will probably be the last public spending round as we have known them. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, is pushing ahead with his plans to meld together the framing of the government's spending plans in the autumn statement and its decisions on how to raise the taxation to pay for them in the Budget.

Mr Major, a former chief secretary and Chancellor himself, is all for reform. At present, he believes, spending ministers all urge the Chancellor to be generous with the rate support grant settlement for local government, promising restraint

with their departmental spending bids. Then, a little later, anxious for kudos in their departments, they bid for those increases after all in the public spending round. Finally, those summer battles forgotten, in the winter and early spring they urge the Chancellor to cut taxation despite having left him no scope to do so. Bringing together the spending and taxation decisions in December, Mr Major believes, will force all ministers to wake up to the consequences of their own claims.

Mr Major's need to intervene from Bogotá on the Tory divisions over Europe underlines the party's continuing problem with the subject which cost Mrs Thatcher so dearly. Mr Major, Douglas Hurd

and Tristan Garel-Jones, the inside track minister of state at the Foreign Office, who works closely with them both and was with Mr Major in Bogotá, were slow to recognise the Tory party's change of mood after the Danish referendum and how that referendum has made Tory MPs more honest about their reservations on the EC.

But Tory MPs are being slow, too, to realise how convinced are Mr Hurd and Mr Major that a reopening of negotiations on the Maastricht treaty would carry a real peril of losing what they saw as a significant gain, the first reversal of the tide of centralism. The two point out that if the Danes could have their way, Britain would be dragged into the social chapter and the European Commission would

have far wider controls over environmental policy.

In a belated response to the new Tory truculence Mr Major has become less confident of getting a deal to satisfy all 12 EC governments. It may require concessions also from his over-excited Euro-sceptics if peace is to be restored in the Tory party.

Perhaps the City rumormongers who had him dead in the Colombian jungle may yet have done Mr Major a favour. When Euro-sceptics contemplate the alternatives they may be more inclined to concede him a point too. Tory rebels acknowledge that Mr Major's pragmatism is likely to offer them more over a period than the enthusiasm of Michael Heseltine or Kenneth Clarke.

Tory whips fail to cool Maastricht tempers

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY opponents of the Maastricht treaty yesterday defied attempts by government whips to cool internal wrangling over Europe by demanding the head of Jacques Delors.

John Biffen, the former cabinet minister, said that it would be "provocative and counter-productive" for the government to support the reappointment of M Delors as president of the European Commission for the next two and a half years. He was supported by Bill Cash, the Tory MP for Stafford, who said that ideally M Delors, widely seen as the architect of a federal Europe, should not be retained.

Tony Newton, the Commons Leader, who was deputising for the prime minister while he attended the Earth summit in Rio de Janeiro, gave the rebels no encouragement. He said that the question of M Delors's future would not be addressed until the Lisbon EC summit at the end of the month. The indications are that Britain will fall into line with other EC states and endorse his continuation at the helm.

Reclamations also continued over the private meeting of Euro-sceptic ministers last week, which broke with the cabinet line by urging the scrapping of the bill ratifying the Maastricht treaty.

From the pro-European wing of the party, Robert Adley, Conservative MP for Christchurch, launched a venomous attack on Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, who was forced to issue a public statement on Wednesday repudiating suggestions that he was at odds with the prime minister.

Mr Adley described Mr Lilley as an "immature cabinet upstart, a tearoom plotter, still wet behind the ears". He suggested that in spite of his retraction Mr Lilley and Michael Portillo, the Treasury chief secretary, another of the "plotters",

should resign their posts. Mr Adley said: "The fundamental argument over Europe was settled decisively 20 years ago. The debates now about pace and style and shape are merely evolution."

"Immature cabinet upstarts still wet behind the ears should pay to John Major the debt of loyalty they rightly demanded for their erstwhile heroine, now political dowager queen down the corridor. These tea-room plotters should bite their tongues or pen their resignations."

Mr Adley accused these "lightweight plotters" of interrupting him over his toasted teacake as they "chattered" in the inner sanctum of the House of Commons tearoom.

Mr Newton defended his cabinet colleagues, insisting that their views and motives had been misrepresented. He said of Mr Lilley's statement: "He clearly thought — and in my view rightly — that his position had been misconstrued and it was sensible to make that clear. I am glad to note in some quarters that journalists have begun to question the interpretation that had been placed on a meeting that was interpreted as a conspiracy, when it appeared to have government whips present," he said.

On the fate of the commission presidency, Mr Biffen urged Mr Newton to bear constantly in mind the speech made nearly four years ago by M Delors, when he had said 80 per cent of economic decisions and perhaps even 80 per cent of fiscal and social decisions should be subject to negotiation at community level. Mr Biffen added: "That's the unacceptable ambitions of political centralism and in those circumstances the reappointment of M Delors would be provocative and counter-productive."

Mr Newton said the government was concerned to enhance and underpin the concept of subsidiarity. "The Maastricht agreement did precisely that and the British government will continue to pursue that objective."

Edwina Currie, Tory MP for Derbyshire South, who is planning a new career as a European MP, weighed in from the pro-European wing of the party in the Commons. She said that many Tory MPs had voted for the Maastricht deal because it was the best the country could have got and they had not changed their minds.

Treaty fears, page 1
EC decisions, page 13
Peter Riddell, page 16

The week ahead in Parliament

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday: Boundary Commissions bill, second reading.
Tuesday: Debate of Opposition motion on the water industry.
Wednesday: Bankruptcy (Scotland) bill, second reading.
Thursday: Motion on Northern Ireland expenditure.
Friday: Private member's motions.

The main business in the House of Lords is expected to be:

Monday: Civil Service (Management Functions) bill, second reading. Northern Ireland anti-terrorism order.
Tuesday: Judicial Pensions and Retirement bill, second reading. Debate on Intestacy.
Wednesday: Debates on Hong Kong and South China; on Palestinian refugees; and on religious education in schools.
Thursday: Non-Domestic Rating bill, all stages. Dog Control and Welfare bill, second reading.

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE government came under cross-party attack in the Lords yesterday for its "shameful" refusal to pay for war widows to attend the El Alamein 50th anniversary ceremony in Egypt.

Peers complained that the significance of next October's anniversary warranted special treatment in addition to the normal assistance given to war widows in visiting the graves of servicemen.

The Conservative peer, Lord Boyd-Carpenter said that, in view of the government's "obstinate refusal" to



Sheltering from the storm: Tory MP Robert Adley, who yesterday called Peter Lilley "an immature upstart"

New MPs take Thatcher line

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW Tory MPs are putting pressure on the government to cut public spending, keep down public borrowing and cut interest rates by at least half a percentage point.

The intake of more than 60 MPs are lobbying Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, and Michael Portillo, chief secretary to the Treasury, over the need for tight control on economic policy. Ten MPs met Mr Lamont on Wednesday and urged him to cut public spending to the bone by keeping public sector pay rises to a minimum. The MPs have used less formal meetings with Mr Portillo to drive home the need for a half a percentage point cut in interest rates and a tight rein on the public sector borrowing requirement.

Adopting a distinctly Thatcherite economic stand,

the new MPs have no sympathy with pouring billions into caring Conservatism. Universal benefits need to be cut and spending on health and education need to be held down, they argue. "We cannot afford the generous real increases that have been given to health over the last two years," said one new MP.

Peter Luff, the new Tory MP for Worcester, said yesterday that he would be pressing Mr Portillo for immediate interest rate cuts. "I would welcome a 0.5 per cent cut in interest rates in the near future and a full percentage point by the end of the year. Unless you get an interest rate cut soon the recovery will be undermined."

David Willits, Tory MP for Havant, said: "A lot of us are saying that one of the crucial battles ahead is to keep down

public spending." Alan Duncan, MP for Rutland and Melton, says it is vital to cut public spending to offset demand-led spending on unemployment benefits.

John Townend, MP for Bridlington and the new chairman of the backbench finance committee, admitted that the new MPs were pushing a particularly tough line on economic policy. "I think they are very dry in economic terms. We (the backbench finance committee) would like to see interest rates cut and inflation brought down, and that requires keeping public sector wages down to 3 to 4 per cent. Mr Townend admitted that Mr Lamont had been prevented from bringing interest rates by the ERM, and argued that Britain should be pressing for a realignment within it.

Ulster talks seek way ahead

BY EDWARD GORMAN
NORTHERN IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

TALKS on the political future of Northern Ireland continued throughout yesterday in an attempt to find a way of moving the process into its second phase.

The plenary session, the first for more than a week, was chaired by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, and was devoted to the consideration of the work of a sub-committee set up to explore ways of moving to strand two. Some party sources have described the sub-committee as having failed to come up with an acceptable mechanism.

Sir Patrick has been under pressure for several weeks to make a decision about the process — either shut it down to allow time for reflection, or push it on to strand two, even if not all the parties are happy to go on — and may make his mind up in the next few days.

The Irish government is thought to have made it clear to him that it wishes strand two, when it becomes involved in talks with unionist leaders, to begin soon.

Unionists do not wish to move into the second phase until there is broad inter-party agreement on structures of government for Northern Ireland. The nationalist SDLP argues that widening the talks by bringing in the Irish government will help to overcome existing obstacles.

Hospital waiting list pledge 'broken'

BY ROBERT MORGAN

THE government's failure to meet its commitment on reducing hospital waiting lists led to furious exchanges in the Commons last night. Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, accused the government of making promises "for electoral purposes".

Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons, insisted that "huge progress" had been made in cutting waiting lists. Figures from the health department have revealed that the number of people waiting for hospital treatment for more than two years has risen from 1,600 in March to 1,999 at the end of April.

Mr Hattersley accused the government of breaking its promise that after April 1 no patient would have to wait more than two years. Mr Newton, standing in for the prime minister, said that the ambition was to ensure that nobody had to wait more than two years, and the number waiting this long had been cut from 50,000 to 2,000. It was disappointing that there had been a small increase in April, but that was being addressed.

Mr Hattersley said the leaflet on the patient's charter which went through every door "guaranteed" that after April 1 nobody would have to wait more than two years. Mr Newton said that there had been a huge improvement and that progress would be reinforced by action to be taken by Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary.

Mr Hattersley asked what Mr Newton intended to say to the thousands of people who had believed the government and now found they had to wait for more than two years "because the government failed to keep its promise which it made for purely electoral purposes".

Mr Newton said that to reduce the number waiting more than two years from 50,000 to 2,000 was hardly a failure of ambition.

Electricity sell-off praised

Electricity sell-off praised

The government's handling of the sale of National Power and PowerGen, the electricity generating companies, was declared a success by the National Audit Office.

The public spending watchdog, which has criticised many aspects of previous privatisations, praised the government for making sure the sale of about 60 per cent of the shares in the companies for some £2.9 billion brought worthwhile gains for taxpayers.

Quick service

The case of the Commons "hitman-waiter" is being investigated, Tony Newton, the Leader, told MPs. Newspaper reports have claimed that a waiter with HIV who had worked in the Terrace bar since April last year was wanted in America, where he is alleged to be an international hitman. The matter came to light when he was arrested in a drugs raid in south London.

Exports up

The value of UK exports of manufactures was £86 billion last year compared with £51 billion ten years before, Michael Portillo, the Treasury chief secretary, said in a written reply.

Working hours

MPs from all quarters pressed Tony Newton, the Leader of the House, to arrange an early debate on the Jopling report on reforming the sitting times of the Commons. Mr Newton made it clear he hoped to arrange such a debate within a couple of weeks.

Parliament today
Commons (9.30): Debate on common agricultural policy.

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German states seek role in EC decisions as Maastricht price

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

THE German *Länder* are insisting on the right to be involved in all decisions of the European Community council of ministers, including those on foreign policy, as their price for ratifying the Maastricht treaty.

That was made clear yesterday by Florian Gerner, from the Rhineland Palatinate, speaking on behalf of fellow European affairs ministers from all 16 states, who met in Bonn and unanimously agreed to defend German federalism against Brussels centralisation.

The European Community's foreign policy was no longer German foreign policy, but internal European policy, Herr Gerner said. The states, therefore, were determined to see their right to consultation on every subject written into the German constitution. The government should take note, he said, that ratification of the Maastricht treaty "is not yet certain".

The Bundesrat (upper house), which must ratify the treaty, is composed of representatives from the states. Most are from the opposition Social Democrats, and the rest are Christian Democrats or from the Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union.

Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, agreed during a meeting with the state prime ministers last month that the constitution will be amended to guarantee consultation rights on all matters where the states' competence is concerned. The states insist that that does not go far enough and want to be brought in to every aspect of European policy. Their determined unanimity on the issue means that the government faces a difficult negotiation to satisfy them if it wants to be sure of ratification.

Klaus Kinkel, the foreign minister, is resisting any idea of handing any competence over foreign affairs to the states. "We are not a state federation, but a federal state," he said. Herr Kinkel, however, is a member of the Free Democrats, junior partners in the government coalition, and they have no seats in the Bundesrat.

The minister agreed that the concept of Europe was no longer as well anchored and accepted in Germany as it should be. "We have to tell the people how important this Europe is, because we Germans are among those who profit most from it," he said.

The stand by the states against centralisation reflects a growing popular mood. Barely half of Germans are in favour of European unity and nearly three-quarters are opposed to giving up the mark in favour of a common European currency, according to a Forsa poll for *Stern* magazine, published yesterday. *Stern* found 72 per cent wanted a referendum on the Maastricht treaty — even though that is impossible under the constitution.

The poll also indicated that only 18 per cent would support the transfer of decision-making on foreign, security, social, economic and financial policies to the European Commission and parliament.

Sixty-two leading German economists also condemned plans for a European currency last night. "The hasty introduction of a European monetary union will expose Western Europe to strong economic tensions that can lead to political tensions in the foreseeable future and endanger the goal of integration," the economists said.

The dissenting professors, including Karl Schiller, the former economics minister, argued that the Maastricht treaty was too weak to impose the long-term harmonisation all EC members must achieve to make the economic and monetary union work. "Fulfilling the conditions on a certain date could be more or less accidental and therefore not proof of the convergence that is needed."

Major's gloom, page 1
Wilson of the 90s, page 16

Serb leader demands partition before lifting airport siege

FROM BILL FROST AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

A UNITED Nations relief convoy, which had been marooned on the outskirts of Sarajevo during clashes between rival fighters in the Bosnian capital, last night arrived at UN headquarters in the city.

The convoy had been brought to a halt because UN vehicles sent to escort it turned back on Wednesday after a French soldier was wounded in an outburst of firing. A team of 50 military observers and sappers travelled with the convoy from Belgrade to supervise the re-opening of Sarajevo airport for relief flights. The runway is thought to have been mined while the control tower and other buildings have been booby-trapped.

As the UN column made its way into Sarajevo last night

Bosnia yesterday, political pressure mounted on Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president. Students and taxi drivers in Belgrade demonstrated and opposition parties again demanded his resignation. A group of 12 MPs from Mr Milosevic's ruling Socialist party threatened to break away if the leadership failed to moderate its approach. The rebels said they would form a new party based on democratic principles.

As the chorus of disapproval grew, the state-run television launched a counter-attack. It broadcast the contents of telegrams sent to the president urging him to stay on and accusing his opponents of treachery. One read: "These conspirators are working with others to bring Serbia to her knees." Among those loyal to the government, a "Fortress Serbia" mentality has emerged.

An independent trade union with 225,000 members, many in heavy industry, will strike from Monday in an attempt to hasten Mr Milosevic's departure. However, given the growing shortage of raw materials as sanctions continue to take effect, the workers could be laid off before they can walk out.

Belgrade buzzed yesterday with reports that food rationing was to be introduced before the month is out. Petrol coupons were issued this week, putting an end to queues at filling stations but also provoking anger among motorists allowed only 7 gallons of fuel a month. Musicians have refused to take part in concerts on state-run radio or television until the president stands down.



Map of Bosnia and Herzegovina showing the locations of Sarajevo, Zagreb, and other cities.



Bullets galore: an Armenian militiaman draped in ammunition guarding his post in Nagorno-Karabakh, the disputed enclave in Azerbaijan

Yeltsin offers concessions as the generals grow restless

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

A YEAR ago Boris Yeltsin became Russia's first democratically elected president after an epic stand against the political weapons that the Soviet system and Mikhail Gorbachev, its last leader, could hurl at him. Against the backdrop of Soviet collapse and economic disarray, Mr Yeltsin enjoyed 11 months of relative success.

He was able to capitalise on his popular mandate to introduce unpopular economic measures, above all price rises, that President Gorbachev had eschewed. His young, radical government survived its first serious political test at the April congress with its popularity enhanced and that of President Yeltsin undiminished. Political tension in the cities gave way during the year to a mass orgy of trading as restrictions were lifted. Supplies improved. The continuing stand-off between government and parliament slowed the passage of legislation, but slowly the balance seemed to be shifting in the government's favour.

Suddenly in the past month, however, a shadow has fallen over Mr Yeltsin and his gilded team of reformers led by Yegor Gaidar, the first deputy prime minister. The origins of the shadow are as yet unknown. The latest opinion polls suggest that Mr Yeltsin's popularity is still high; but are there further projections that may show a sharp fall in coming months? Do the research institutes in Moscow that feed their information to the Yeltsin team have information that unemployment and the long-feared

Boris Yeltsin's first year in office was quite successful, but his second may not be, writes Mary Dejevsky

wave of industrial bankruptcies are at hand? Something seems to be wrong, but precisely what is hard to gauge.

Recent visits to central and eastern Siberia and west Russian towns suggest a political and social calm little different from that prevailing in Moscow. Almost every strike threat this year, whether in the public services or in industry, has been averted. Political demonstrations are only sparsely attended. There may, however, be a more sinister explanation for the looming shadow that has nothing to do with the popular mood and much to do with the powerful military. A "fearful symmetry" can be observed between President Gorbachev in the winter of 1990 and President Yeltsin in the summer of 1992.

In the late autumn of 1990, Mr Gorbachev rejected the "500-day programme" for economic reform after receiving a collective ultimatum from heads of the military industries. After abandoning the programme, he augmented his government with nominees of the military industries in the hope that he could thus neutralise the opposition and allow reform to proceed, albeit more slowly.

With hindsight, the attempt to overthrow Mr Gorbachev in the coup last August can be seen as a revolt less by political hardliners in general than by the old-style military, its industries and supporters. This, incidentally, is how it was seen at once in the Baltic states, with their experience of the violence the previous January. Now, 18 months after President Gorbachev was pressed to make concessions to the military sector, it looks as though President Yeltsin is being forced down the same track, only a little more openly.

He has appointed three individuals to senior positions in his government, each of them linked with the old Soviet industries and two of them specifically with the military sector. Russia has toughened its negotiating stance with the Baltic states and called a halt to concessions in foreign policy. The military industries, however, seem to be pressing for more.

An organised campaign of grass-roots pressure is in progress, orchestrated by the industry's directors. The past week has brought appeals and threats to the Russian government from enterprise directors in the Novosibirsk region in Siberia, from the Sverdlovsk region in the Urals and from Nizhni Novgorod.

As so often in Mr Yeltsin's Russia, actions and not words will show the real intentions of the reshuffled government. Too many people have an interest in putting a gloss on what is happening in Russia for statements to be taken at face value.

L&T section, page 7

Moscow gives the starting signal for industry sell-off

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Russian government gave preliminary approval yesterday for a vast sell-off of the country's industrial assets, designed to give every Russian a stake in the nation's economic revival. The decision was endorsed simultaneously by the Russian parliament, which approved the outline programme with few amendments.

The timing, a few days before the Washington summit, appeared designed to allay Western fears that Moscow was backsliding on economic reform. Presentation was carefully stage-managed, from the disclosure that the government meeting was chaired by Yegor Gaidar, the reform supremo and first deputy prime minister, to an intervention in the Russian parliament by Vladimir Shumeiko, his newly appointed fellow deputy prime minister, giving support to rapid privatisation.

Mr Shumeiko, whose earlier career was spent in heavy industry, has been widely regarded as less enthusiastic about reform than Mr Gaidar, and his appointment was seen as a concession to the opposition. Yesterday, however, Mr Shumeiko rejected a proposal that parliament's consideration of the privatisation programme should be postponed "in view of the government reshuffle". Setting out provisional details of the government programme, Aleksei Ulyukayev said that privatisation would be conducted in three stages. A total of 150 million vouchers would be issued by this autumn to all Russians, probably through savings banks. There would be a second issue next year, and the third and final issue in 1994.

Little more than the timetable appeared to have been agreed, however, with even the value of the vouchers undecided. Mr Ulyukayev said that this decision would rest with parliament. Suggesting a guiding principle, he said that vouchers would have to be worth no less than a worker's average monthly salary, but not so much that they had a serious effect on inflation. He suggested a possible value per voucher of between 5,000 and 10,000 roubles (5,000 roubles is about twice the current average salary).

Mr Ulyukayev conceded, however, that the scheme faces colossal problems, and not just in the logistics of printing and distribution. At present, there is no definition of who is a Russian citizen. All Russians still have their former Soviet internal passports, with their place of residence stated, but a decision must be taken on Russians who have taken permanent residence in another former Soviet republic or returned from another republic to live in Russia.

A further difficulty relates to the selection of industries to be included, the proportion of the companies' estimated value to be "privatised" and the actual valuation of companies. The first two questions are to be left to parliament, while Mr Ulyukayev implied that the value of vouchers would not necessarily correspond to the estimated value of an enterprise.

Confusion surrounded another aspect of Russia's economic policy: the price of energy. Vyacheslav Kostikov, the recently appointed spokesman for President Yeltsin, implied that energy

prices would not be freed, as the International Monetary Fund requires, before summer next year. The previous day, Mr Yeltsin himself had suggested that there could be one more price rise, but no more, before the end of this year.

Yesterday Mr Ulyukayev said that the government might follow the "Polish model", introducing several big jumps in energy prices, but keeping them under state regulation.

● **Shrinking rouble:** Russia appears to have reconciled itself to the inevitable shrinking of what is currently called the "rouble zone" and will exert pressure on other former Soviet republics either to state their commitment to the rouble as a common currency or establish their own currency and enforce strict exchange controls.

Mr Ulyukayev said yesterday that the government would take up the matter with other republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States this month, but welcomed Estonia's decision to proceed with the rapid introduction of its own currency. He also acknowledged for the first time that Ukraine was likely to leave the rouble zone and introduce its own currency as a fully sovereign state.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Paris sends more troops to Rwanda

Paris: France has sent 150 soldiers to Rwanda, doubling its troops there after renewed fighting between troops of President Habyarimana and rebels of the Rwanda Patriotic Front, French officials said yesterday.

The soldiers would protect foreign citizens and would not intervene in the fighting, an official said. He said that fighting flared last week around Byumba, near the border with Uganda, where many of the 600 French citizens in Rwanda live. About 2,000 other foreigners also live in the country. (Reuter)

Canada wins

Ottawa: An international tribunal in New York awarded France a 24-mile fisheries and economic zone off the French islands of St Pierre and Miquelon, ten miles off Newfoundland. France had laid claim to an area stretching up to 200 miles from the islands. Most of the disputed fishing area went to Canada.

Moi attacked

Tigoni, Kenya: With violence rising in Kenya, Masinde Muliro, of the opposition Forum for the Restoration of Democracy, said that President Moi had lost control and the country was on the brink of anarchy. (Reuter)

Ban enforced

Algiers: At least one person was wounded when police fired warning shots to break up a gathering of Muslim militants who defied a ban on outdoor prayer assemblies to celebrate the feast of Eid al-Adha. (Reuter)

Iran accused

Strasbourg: The European parliament accused Iran of ethnic and religious persecution, torture and imprisonment without trial and urged the European Commission to seek an end to human rights abuses by Tehran. (Reuter)

Urban decay

Rome: Art experts blamed neglect by the Italian government for the collapse of a section of the historic ramparts in the town of Urbino, saying that a host of similar disasters was waiting to happen. (Reuter)

Nuclear smuggling ring foiled

BY GABRIEL RONAY

SEVEN members of an East European nuclear smuggling ring have been arrested by Austria's anti-terrorist command in a Vienna suburb as they tried to pass 2.5lb of enriched uranium to an Austrian contact.

The nuclear material, which can be used in bomb making and is worth more than £600,000, was "destined for an Arab country", Vienna police said, but they refused to elaborate because of the sensitivity of the investigations. Four of those arrested were Hungarians and two were Czechs. They were not named.

A high-ranking official of the Hungarian national security agency involved in the investigation said that the arrests were "very significant". They provided Vienna with proof that a well-organised network of former KGB agents, the Russian mafia and international racketeers, were smuggling enriched uranium regularly to an Arab country "interested in nuclear bomb-making". The official would not name the Arab country for fear of retribution.

He said that analysis at Austria's Seibendorf nuclear research station of the radioactive material disclosed that it was "moderately enriched, 4.4 per cent uranium-235, which originated from a VVER-1,000-type Soviet nuclear reactor". With the collapse of the Soviet Union, state control over the unregulated production of military-grade enriched uranium and plutonium has become lax and the westward flow of

nuclear material has become a flood. Concern is increasing in Central and Western Europe because the smuggled nuclear material is going to the highest bidder — countries with extensive funds and few political scruples.

In the past year at least 11 illegal sales of smuggled Soviet nuclear material have been foiled across Europe. Some were no more than "nuclear car boot sales", others were fake "red mercury" scams, but the rest were plutonium and enriched uranium consignments in search of a buyer. The Vienna catch was part of a series of consignments along established routes from the former Soviet Union to an Arab state, the Hungarian official said.

David Kyd, of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, said recently that "the temptations and trafficking opportunities (from the former Soviet Union) are growing. At some stage we are going to find the big one — there is a lot of nuclear material scattered about."

Teenage fans worship Milan 'clean-up' judge

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN MILAN

THE investigation by judges in Milan into political bribery and corruption has turned the dilapidated Palace of Justice into a hallowed shrine for ordinary Milanese, second only to the cathedral.

Fall-out from the scandal may have frustrated the ambition of Bettino Craxi to become the next prime minister, but magistrates say the battle against bribery in the Socialist party's stronghold will continue.

"A whole system of corruption is pouring out like oil," said Judge Saverio Borrelli, the Milan chief public prosecutor. He said that the collaboration of ordinary citizens was making the magistrates' task easier. Signor Borrelli said the city had reached a point



Craxi: implicated in corruption scandal

where people appeared to be "saturated" with corruption. On Wednesday hundreds of Milanese teenagers travelled to a discotheque in Turin for the inauguration of a fan club for Judge Antonio Di Pietro, the magistrate handling "Operation Clean Hands". Scores of autograph hunters loitered on the Palace of Justice steps to await their hero and he gets about 150 letters a day.

Signor Di Pietro, a 42-year-old former policeman, does not revel in his popularity. Wandering around the grubby corridors of his office in a ill-fitting baggy suit, he greets two foreign reporters with a mischievous wink and a vigorous handshake. However, he says: "You know I cannot make declarations. Talk to

lucrative public works contracts to 40. Investigators say local politicians gave money to all the main parties, including the Christian Democrats and the former communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS). They say, however, that the lion's share of the kickbacks went to the Socialists.

Political commentators have said it is impossible that national party leaders such as Signor Craxi did not know what their Milan organisations were up to. Signor Borrelli refuses to be drawn on this.

The bribery rampant in Italian cities had been common knowledge for years, but in the past businessmen refused to admit involvement. "The facts of corruption are rarely found in writing or stipulated in contracts," Signor Borrelli said. "Once the principle of evi-

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Rebel son of the Broederbond preaches justice for blacks



Naudé: he demands honesty in government

BEYERS Naudé bears a famous name. He is an Afrikaner of impeccable ancestry. He is a *dominie* (a pastor), in the Dutch Reformed Church. His father fought in the Boer war against the British and later founded the Broederbond, the secret brotherhood whose members long dominated Afrikaner public life and which provided much of the intellectual basis and political direction for the white supremacists. On Sunday, Pastor Naudé could be found in Alexandra, the black township on the northeastern fringe of suburban white Johannesburg, preaching to an all-black congregation. He spoke out from

A former member of the Afrikaner establishment is now preaching in a black township, Michael Hamlyn writes

the pulpit against the corruption and waste in white public life, and declared that there could be no peace in South Africa until there was honesty in government. Mr Naudé is an unusual Afrikaner. In 1960 he was a respected leader of the church and a prominent member of the Broederbond. But soon after the Sharpeville killings he thought again about his position and began three decades of Christian challenge to the apartheid regime. He

was placed under restrictions from 1977 until 1984. During that banning he decided to switch allegiance from the white Dutch Reformed Church to the black Dutch Reformed Church in Africa, and to preach the gospel to his black neighbours. Under the terms of his banning order he might not enter black, coloured or Indian residential areas, so he could pray only in white Johannesburg, the first steps towards the constitutional talks now

came co-pastor at the Alexandra church and now appears regularly on the dais high above the congregation, his sermons translated line by line into Sotho. "I think often of my father," he said after the service was over. "I think of his deep sense of justice, and the way he fought against the British for the Afrikaner. But he never transcended that. He never fought for justice for the black community." Pastor Naudé, now 77, is still fighting. He was nominated by the African National Congress as one of its team at the Groote Schuur talks last year, the first steps towards the constitutional talks now

under way with the de Klerk government. Some of his family have still not forgiven him for having changed sides so violently. His sermon on Sunday was preached on two long texts: Jeremiah chapter 6, verses 9-21, and Psalm 85, verses 1-30. Jeremiah presents God as a god of anger and judgment. The psalm shows Him seemingly the opposite, a god of love and forgiveness. "Is this the same God who is talking?" he asked. "Or is he talking about the same people? Or is God a little bit confused?" Dr Naudé reconciled the different images of God in a thesis that had an austere

message for South Africa. Contrasting the deep-seated desire for peace among the people with the dishonesty and bribery abroad in the state, he declared: "There can never be love without faithfulness. There can never be peace without righteousness. As long as we do not accept this, then our prayers for peace will not be heard." As his sermon finished, some of the congregation were induced to stand while the story of their suffering had been driven from their homes by threats of death, as well as by grenades and bullets. ● ANC anger: South African government plans to give the

security forces sweeping powers to tap telephones, intercept mail and bug rooms in their fight against rising crime drew an angry reaction yesterday from the African National Congress (Ray Kennedy writes). The congress hinted that the measure could further damage multiparty constitutional negotiations, the Convention on a Democratic South Africa, deadlocked since last month and threatened by the congress's decision to call a national campaign of mass action next month if progress is not made by June 30. At present, telephone tapping is lawful only in security cases.

Baker calls off Rio trip for arms talks

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

JAMES Baker, the US Secretary of State, will meet Andrei Kozirev, his Russian counterpart, in London today in a last-ditch attempt to agree deep new cuts in nuclear weapons before President Bush and President Yeltsin hold their first official summit in Washington next week. Mr Baker dropped plans to accompany Mr Bush to the Rio Earth summit yesterday in order to concentrate exclusively on securing the accord which the two leaders hoped would be the centrepiece of their meeting. The talks will be held initially at the Russian embassy and could continue over the weekend. Mr Baker and Mr Kozirev met for two days in Washington earlier this week. They agreed new ceilings of roughly 4,700 nuclear warheads each, well below the levels of about 8,500 agreed in last year's Strategic Arms Reductions Treaty, but failed to agree which missiles should be eliminated to achieve those ceilings. The Bush administration insisted on the elimination of most, if not all, Russia's land-based multiple-warhead missiles, the backbone and most destabilising element of Moscow's nuclear arsenal. America would eliminate its own equivalent missiles, far fewer in number, but was not prepared to make reciprocal re-

ductions in its own area of superiority, submarine-launched missiles. On Wednesday, President Yeltsin publicly accused the US of seeking to achieve a strategic advantage over his country, but the administration was undaunted. Officials saw this as an attempt by Mr Yeltsin to placate the Russian military and as the sort of public posturing typical of arms negotiations. They pointed out that, even as Mr Yeltsin was making his accusation, Mr Kozirev was continuing to negotiate with Mr Baker by telephone. It was during another telephone call yesterday that the two officials agreed to meet in London. But in an interview broadcast on Russian television last night, Mr Yeltsin said that he was going to the Washington summit "with hand outstretched, not to beg but extended in friendship". He also appeared to suggest that Russia could be open to making further cuts in strategic weapons. "With 50 per cent of our people living below the poverty line, we don't need so many warheads: we have 12,000 strategic-range warheads alone," he said. There are strong pressures on both sides to reach an agreement. Mr Bush and Mr Yeltsin both face serious political problems at home and an important arms control

agreement would boost their domestic standings. With tensions rising throughout the former Soviet Union, the Americans want to lock Russia into a new round of nuclear cuts as fast as possible. Russian intransigence on this issue, in a year when foreign aid is already anathema to most Americans, could further delay a big American assistance package inching through Congress. In Washington, the administration is being berated by congressmen and arms control experts who believe it is jeopardising deep cuts that are readily available in its obsession with those Russian missiles capable of reaching American cities. "Russian leaders have made clear their desire to negotiate deep mutual cuts, but the administration persists with proposals where US cuts would be minimal," said Joe Biden, a senior Democrat on the Senate foreign relations committee. "This translates to Russian leaders as the pursuit of unilateral advantage." Three former American arms control officials held a press conference yesterday to condemn the administration's intransigence. The US had been "spoiled" by the former Soviet Union's last-day willingness to "roll over and accept one-sided proposals", said Raymond Garthoff.



Moving moment: Aziza Qhuloom, of the United Arab Emirates, pondering her next move against an Angolan opponent in the women's division of the World Chess Olympiad in Manila yesterday

The press keeps up Gaddafi attacks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN TRIPOLI

Criticism of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi intensified yesterday as the state-controlled press ran a series of attacks on the notion of Arab unity, the linchpin of the Libyan leader's foreign policy since he seized power 23 years ago. It was the third day in succession that the press has given vent to such sentiments. "We loved the unity of the great Arab nation: they said we were mad. We did all we could to save Palestine, but they caved in to the Western solution," *al-Jamahiriyah* said. "For the sake of Arabism and Islam, we refuse to accommodate with the West, but the other Arabs went in droves on the pilgrimage to the White House." The special edition of the normally weekly paper was the third to appear in 72 hours. It came after a declaration in Wednesday's issue that Libya planned a U-turn in its policy towards the West. "We say to you, go back to your Arabism and Islamic links," the paper taunted the other 20 members of the Arab League. "It is much better for us to co-operate with America than all the Arabs because we have realised that our own interests are above everything."

Although the attacks on Colonel Gaddafi and the pledge of a switch back to the pro-Western stand of the deposed monarchy of King Idris were believed to have been inspired by the colonel, rumours about the long-term stability of his regime are rife. Confusion about the shift in Libya's stand has been intensified by an atmosphere of secrecy about the regime's real intentions over United Nations demands for extradition of the two Lockerbie bombing suspects. International contacts have been increased to discover the processes under which the two secret service agents would face trial in Scotland. "By talking to Britain about the IRA this week and now sending friendship signals to Washington, the colonel may still be trying to do everything, short of handing them over, to ward off tougher sanctions when the [UN] security council meets in August," one ambassador said. Another diplomat said: "Gaddafi and those closest to him have yet to be convinced that they cannot get away with anything short of handing the two over."

Israeli voters uninspired as leaders sidestep issues

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI'S next government, after the forthcoming general election, will face momentous decisions, and yet the campaign has failed to capture the public imagination. Those elected will have to tackle negotiations with hostile Arab neighbours and rebellious Palestinians, attract one million Russian Jews, and lead the country through the uncertain political landscape of the post-Cold war era. The campaign has been dominated by two uninspiring veteran politicians, Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, and Yitzhak Rabin, the Labour leader. With only 11 days until voting on June 23, politicians on the campaign trail would be well advised to take their supporters with them to avoid the prospect of being ignored by a cynical and apathetic electorate. Only a third of television

viewers tune into the prime-time political broadcasts, parties are finding it difficult to recruit volunteers, and stickers and election posters are conspicuously absent in a country normally obsessed with politics. On Monday in the northern town of Qiryat Shmona, not even the presence of Likud's heavyweight leadership, including Mr Shamir, David Levy, the foreign minister, and Moshe Arens, the defence minister, could attract more than a couple of hundred locals to a rally. "There is not too much interest in public rallies now," admitted Likud's spokesman, Yossi Alhimel. "People prefer to stay at home and watch television or videos." The opposition Labour party has already had to cancel a rally in Tel Aviv. "This time the public atmosphere surrounding the elections is

much more calm and apathetic in comparison to previous election campaigns," said Mr Rabin. "There is no inclination towards big assemblies and most of the work is conducted in house visits and through personal contacts." Here too, however, the public's reaction has been distinctly lacklustre; one luckless Labour campaigner found himself alone at a campaign reception because none of the 80 guests had bothered to show up. Part of the reason for the lack of public interest has been the uncharismatic performance of the two leaders and their sidestepping of key issues such as land, peace, the economy and immigration. Cynicism has been compounded by the growing realisation that the probable outcome is another unwieldy coalition government.

Tricks of India's unholy trade exposed

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

One of the more enduring myths of India is being shattered. Many of the gaily painted sadhus, holy men who travel about doing magic with god-given powers, are being exposed as confidence tricksters raking in money from gullible villagers and others. "The mysterious East is a mirage, it does not exist," said Charu Gupta, who set up a group called the Delhi Science Centre to disprove, one by one, the miracles in the sadhus' repertoire. So far the group has exposed 150 of the most popular tricks, and is exploring phenomena such as levitation. Her group visits slums and middle-class areas to demonstrate the sadhus' techniques and demystify them. The most common trick is the use of a pointed trident that is seemingly pushed through the tongue. In fact, it is bent in the middle and the tongue pokes through. Many tricks

are equally simple, though impressive when accompanied by a theatrical performance of pain and suffering. Another common trick is making fire simply by throwing a clear liquid on to paper. That took time for the group to work out. The paper is first sprinkled with potassium permanganate and the clear liquid is glycerine. There is a chemical reaction, and the paper bursts into flames. "Some traditionalists have criticised us for demystifying the sadhus and taking away something important from our culture," Mrs Gupta, a history lecturer, said. "But they extract a lot of money from gullible people. The middle classes are also taken in. We have discovered people who have given hundreds of rupees to sadhus who say they can promise them a son." The Delhi Science Centre has trained 60 people to go to different areas and show how the sadhus' tricks are

performed. Some have been confronted angrily by the holy men, who say their livelihood is being affected. "We go to school teachers, students and voluntary organisations to try to spread the message," Mrs Gupta said. "People are afraid to question the sadhus because they are believed to possess such strong powers. Some people fear being cursed or think they will suddenly burst into flames. The way the sadhus dress up and decorate themselves makes them look daunting and people are intimidated. Our mission is to fight this kind of superstition and stop these so-called holy men robbing people." Mrs Gupta said there were tens of thousands of nomadic holy men in India because it was an easy way of earning a living. "Superstition is deeply rooted. In Bihar, witches are still stoned to death. Sometimes they are forced to walk

around naked. Anybody who sits on the street with a holy picture and a few daubs of paint on his face can call himself a holy man. God is the biggest money-puller in India has." The sadhus operate at all levels of society. Most politicians visit them for advice, as do a number of businessmen. "For the poor masses, visiting the sadhu is a temporary respite from a hard life," Mrs Gupta said. "But they come away worse off, because all their money has gone straight into the holy man's pocket." ● Colombo: More than 2,000 Sri Lankan troops attacked Tamil separatist rebels in the northern Jaffna peninsula yesterday and at least 59 people were killed in fighting at close quarters. The military said. The army, backed by bombers and artillery fire, launched the attack from the town of Telipalai, which it captured from rebel control last month. (Reuters)

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SUN ALLIANCE
LIFE & PENSIONS

UN aid figure sets rich and poor nations squabbling

FROM MICHAEL MCCARTHY IN RIO DE JANEIRO

A SMALL figure, 0.7, is beginning to obsess the two camps of countries, the rich and the poor, now squaring up to each other as the Earth summit in Rio de Janeiro enters its final stage.

The figure represents the percentage of national wealth that has been the long-standing official United Nations target for annual foreign aid donations by the industrialised countries, including Britain. Sixteen of the 18 principal aid donors accept the target — the United States and Switzerland do not — but only the Nordic countries and The Netherlands have managed to meet it. Britain's contribution has been steadily falling over the past 13 years from 0.51 per cent in 1979 to 0.27 per cent in 1990.

A promise by all donors to meet the target figure by a fixed date is becoming the

summit preparatory process demanding more aid, at first unlimited amounts in a special new Green Fund with no strings attached, and then the extra \$70 billion (£38 billion) a year that was the summit organisers' cost estimate. Both demands have been refused point-blank by the donor countries, all members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

In the past few days, however, the two camps have begun discussing the text on finance, with the G77 nations moderating their demands. A promise to match the UN aid target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product by a fixed date, such as 2000, offers the possibility of a compromise. Kamal Nath, the Indian environment minister and leader of the G77, said this week that was the group's minimum demand. Mr Nath has some enthusiastic allies among the donor nations. The Nordic countries are pushing for 0.7 per cent with a timetable to be accepted, and the Danes are pressing their European colleagues.

Britain is in a difficult position. Although the United States rejects 0.7 per cent, labelling it economic nonsense, Britain has accepted the target in principle, while declining to attach any timetable to it. "Britain will move towards it as and when economic circumstances permit," Mr Major told the Commons in April last year. Britain's present aid budget of more than £1.8 billion represented 0.32 per cent of gross national product last year, one of the lowest figures in the OECD. To achieve 0.7 per cent would require more than a penny to be put on income tax.

"Focusing on the totem pole of 0.7 is actually misleading," said Baroness Chalker, the overseas development minister, who earlier this week expressed her anger at the British aid budget's drop to 0.27 per cent of GNP in 1990. "The figure is not the only measure of what is going on. Also, the quality and targeting of aid, and what it is spent on, are as important as how much is spent."



EARTH SUMMIT

bottom-line demand of the developing countries as the price for their agreement to Agenda 21, the summit's ambitious blueprint for the greening of the world economy. Negotiations have been slow, and when more than 100 world leaders, including John Major, gather in Rio they may find they have to take the matter over from their officials. If they fail, the summit could end this week-end in an acrimonious stand-off over money.

Agenda 21 aims to channel economic growth along an environmentally friendly path and for that to be carried out fully in the developing nations will require an increase in foreign aid. The Group of 77, the developing nations attending Rio, have spent ten months of the



Culture clash: Quiambeti, a member of the Brazilian Kayapo Indian tribe, enjoying a hot dog at the Global Forum, the alternative Earth summit

Britain champions cause of persecuted street children

FROM ROBIN OAKLEY IN RIO DE JANEIRO

JOHN Major will today press President Collor de Mello of Brazil on what is being done about the street children, some of whom the prime minister met in the São Martinho refuge in Rio yesterday.

Britain has taken more interest in the fate of the children, outcasts, orphans and runaways than any other nation, says Paulo Mello, a Brazilian deputy who campaigns for them. Mr Major is a patron of the Jubilee Trust which helps finance the São Martinho centre.

Yesterday he presented the centre with footballs and football strips after watching a dance display which involved a cross between the limbo and kick-boxing, followed by a Brazilian equivalent of a Kentucky headbanger. With open-sided trams rattling across a rickety viaduct 80ft above and amid a stench of gas, Mr Major admired the little athleticism of the dancers after completing his tour of the refuge. A string quartet appropriately played the

Beatles' *Eleanor Rigby*, the song with the line about "all the lonely people".

British groups are campaigning for the Brazilian government to act to stop the killing of street children, who live on scraps and their wits, by vigilantes. The vigilantes justify the killings by claiming that the children are responsible for Brazil's horrific levels of street crime.

The true figures are not known, but the Jubilee Trust claims that two million Brazilian children aged between 10 and 15 have been forced into prostitution and that there are 8.5 million child workers in Brazil, 60 per cent of whom do not go to school and 40 per cent of whom have no income.

Campaigners say that 350 street children have been killed by death squads already this year in Rio alone. ● Gallery tour: John Major strolled through an exhibition of works by a British botanical artist at Rio's Museum of Modern Art yesterday (Mac Margolis writes).

Defiant Bush puts US voters first

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush set off for the Earth summit in Rio de Janeiro yesterday vowing to protect the American economy and taxpayer from global environmental initiatives that, he claimed, would do far more harm than good.

In a statement that exuded defiance of hostile world opinion, Mr Bush said that America's environmental record was second to none, that "the day of the open chequebook is over", and that "if the US has to be the only nation to stand against the biodiversity treaty, so be it". It was a statement dictated by election-year politics.

America has undermined two of Rio's principal treaties. The president's aides know he will be the butt of fierce international criticism today and tomorrow. They are seeking to turn that to his advantage by portraying him as a tough leader fighting for American interests abroad. A New York Times poll yesterday indicated that 70 per cent of Americans believe Mr Bush had for the most part only paid lip service to improving the environment and that his Rio strategy was aimed at shoring up his conservative base and his support in key western states that want to exploit their natural resources.

Mr Bush was breaking his journey with a five-hour stop in Panama yesterday, his first visit since ordering the invasion in 1989 that toppled General Manuel Noriega. Officials hoped that the visit would remind American voters of what Mr Bush considers one of his main successes of his first term, but it also triggered violent protests from Panamanians who blame him for the deaths of more than 500 people.

An American soldier was killed and another wounded when gunmen ambushed them on a road 30 miles from Panama City on Wednesday. That evening protesters set fire to the stage where Mr Bush was to address an open-air rally. On Monday, a passing car sprayed gunfire at the entrance to an American air force base. Protesters have blocked streets, lit fires and mounted several demonstrations that the police have broken up with tear gas.

Speaking at Andrews Air Force base before his departure, Mr Bush said environmental protection and economic growth were inseparable and promised to resist initiatives harmful to the US economy. "The US has been a great engine of economic growth, and it is going to stay that way," he said.

Mr Bush added that he expected sustained international pressure in Rio for him to sign the biodiversity treaty protecting the habitats of endangered species, but insisted that he would not. The treaty would not only make wealthy nations liable for Third World bills, but would also discourage technological innovations. "Remove incentives and we will see fewer of the technological advances that help us protect our planet," he said.

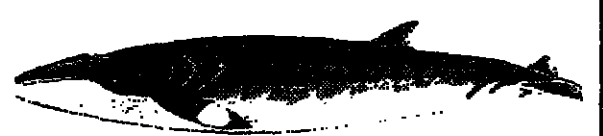
America led the world in developing clean technologies, he said. "I will stand up for American interests and the interests of a cleaner environment."

An agony column.

On 29th June in Glasgow, the International Whaling Commission will be pressured to lift the ban on commercial whaling.

Japan, Norway and other whaling nations are arguing that there are enough minke whales in the Southern Hemisphere to justify sending the fleets out again.

If they succeed in lifting the ban thousands of minke whales will die in excruciating pain; for there is no humane way to kill a whale.



Despite refinements over the years, the harpoon remains an unpredictable, inefficient and cruel weapon.

As recently as 1975 an independent observer recorded a particularly messy kill off the coast of South Africa.

On that occasion, seven harpoons were needed to kill just one sperm whale.

Significantly, the survey showed that of 167 sperm whales killed, nearly 54% of them required two or more harpoons to do the job.

1 harpoon	77 whales (46.1%)
2 harpoons	59 whales (35.3%)
3 harpoons	24 whales (14.4%)
4 harpoons	4 whales (2.4%)
5 harpoons	2 whales (1.2%)
7 harpoons	1 whale (0.6%)

Since the whale has a brain and nervous system comparable to those of humans, there is every reason to believe they feel pain as acutely as we do.

If a harpoon fails to explode within the whale's body, the whale is left with severe internal injuries from the barbs attached to the harpoon's head.

Setting up a subsequent strike can take five to seven minutes, so whales frequently die slowly and in great pain.

The RSPCA has been calling attention to whaling cruelty for over thirty years and the figures are overwhelming (in every sense).

A 1985 report recorded the average death times of minke whales caught by Norwegian whalers in the 1981, 1982 and 1983 seasons.

As you can see, the death times were all unacceptable but varied considerably according to where the whale was hit.

Central nervous system ..	1 min. 40 secs.
Thorax	7 mins. 20 secs.
Abdomen	11 mins. 55 secs.
Musculature	19 mins. 05 secs.

Clearly, such haphazard cruelty would be illegal in an abattoir.

How you can help.

This issue will be decided at the IWC Conference in Glasgow.

Because the British Government is a member of the IWC it can directly influence the decision.

Please write to your MP now stressing your objections to any lifting of the ban. It really will make a difference. Politicians do react to a bulging postbag.

You may also like to attend a whale rally in Glasgow on Sunday, 28th June, the eve of the conference.

If you'd like more information or details of the rally, just send us the coupon below. Please do something.

If enough of us fire off a letter now we can make sure that the harpoons never strike again.

To: RSPCA, Dept AG1C, Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1HG. Please send me details of the campaign against whaling.

Name _____ Address _____



Humane beings don't kill whales.

Tokyo is noise capital of the world

There can be few ways of making a hangover worse than by spending a scorching hot day in a suburb of Tokyo.

At seven in the morning roistering electric music roars up and down the narrow streets to welcome the children to school. That is followed by a high decibel public address system announcement exhorting residents not to forget to think about the forthcoming election. Next we are politely told through another network of amplifiers not to be remiss about putting our rubbish out on time.

A pillow over the head and an aspirin coursing through the system failed to block out the next intrusion, a repertoire of shrieks and garbled electronic wallings from the local sweet potato vendor and a shrill early morning jingle from the waste-paper collector's van.

Incessant and mostly superfluous announcements have become endemic in Tokyo, used as a kind of acoustic whip gently to chide residents and spur them on to good behaviour. Tomizo Shobo, a member of

Joanna Pitman finds Tokyo full of loudspeakers and amplifiers and hears a man whose throat is so powerful he can be heard a mile away

the Anti-Loudspeaker Noise Movement Group, has been fighting a losing battle for eight years against what he calls noise vandalism. "Japanese people just do not notice the noise; they feel lonely if there are no comforting instructions to follow while doing their daily chores."

Mr Shobo became aware of the problem only after the relative quiet of a year's sabbatical in Britain and he has just launched a campaign to curb the level of election campaign noise in the run-up to the July parliamentary elections to the House of Councillors. He is also fighting to unplug the public address systems used in Tokyo shopping streets. Commuters plodding along to the Underground station might be advised to carry earplugs because loud "public morning music" and advertisements for baby powder com-

pete with fire and police announcements from the public address systems.

Pedestrians never walk into moving lorries by mistake because Japanese lorries are equipped with electronic voices. When the driver shifts into reverse, the voices yell: "This truck is backing now", and when the driver indicates that it is turning left or right, everyone for miles around is likewise informed of the fact.

Some railway stations broadcast birdsong to compete with the real birds near by, and the Underground system talks too, but not in the perfunctory "mind the gap" style of the London Tube. Tokyo trains remind commuters not to stand too close to the edge of the platform, not to forget their umbrellas and their briefcases and to open the windows if it is a hot day.

Darting into the office brings no relief. In "intelligent buildings" where most things including the curtains are computerised, the lifts talk to their passengers in sepulchral voices, announcing the floors.

Not all of Tokyo's intrusive noises emanate from machines. Some Japanese derive such comfort from noise that they have invented the shouting competition, a popular entertainment for festivals and sports meetings. Designed to relieve stress, competitors take it in turns to yell their heads off, bellowing out any kind of slogan while their voice level is electronically recorded.

One man, who has won several Tokyo shouting competitions, is gifted with a voice so powerful that his friends claim it can be heard a mile away. He can shout for seven hours at a stretch and some say his throat bleeds at the end of a long shout. "I feel better after a good shout," he said, "because I scream away all my suppressed irritations about a life which consists of nothing but work."

Rostropovich is to retire in two years

Mstislav Rostropovich, 65, the Soviet-born maestro who has been music director of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington for 15 years, will retire in two years. At that time, he will become lifetime conductor laureate, committing himself to conduct the orchestra for at least four weeks each season, or orchestra officials said.

Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet president, urged the world's nuclear powers to ban nuclear weapons tests, saying that the global nuclear threat "for all practical purposes [had] disappeared". His two-page appeal was addressed to President Veltin, President Bush, President Mitterrand, John Major and President Yang Shangkun of China.

Senator John Danforth of Missouri defended President Bush's nomination of Donald Alexander, 53, a Missou-

ri businessman, to become the American ambassador to The Netherlands.

President Kravchuk of Ukraine will make an official two-day visit to France next week as President Mitterrand's guest, an Elysee Palace spokesman said.

Oskar Lafontaine, deputy president of Germany's Social Democratic Party, who 18 months ago challenged Helmut Kohl for the German chancellorship, escaped a motion of censure over a money controversy.

The French magazine *Elle* was ordered to pay 100,000 francs (£10,000) to Princess Monique, the French-born wife of Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk, for libelling her in an article impugning her finances and the morality of her mother.

Return of the prodigal don

Matthew d'Ancona on a new academic migration

In the opening pages of David Lodge's *Changing Places*, Philip Swallow, an English lecturer from a provincial British university, sits gleefully on an aeroplane, on his way to a better place: Euphoria State University, a Berkeley-like campus in California. "He looks forward with simple, childlike pleasure to the sunshine," writes Lodge. "ice in his drinks, drinks, parties, cheap tobacco and infinite varieties of ice-cream: to being called 'Professor'." Like thousands before him, Swallow is heading for the west coast's cerebral pleasure-dome.

For years, the brain drain (or "cash dash" as it is less flatteringly known) has been the sackcloth and ashes of British academic life, shameful proof that our society does not value or reward pure intellect. The best and the brightest of each generation have been wooed from their native universities by alluring salaries, the promise of higher social status and the glamour of the American campus.

Yet the weather-vane of opportunity may be about to turn. There are tantalising signs of a contraflow of Brits returning to the safer pastures of their homeland, much to the delight of Oxford and Cambridge colleges which imagined they had lost these prodigals forever.

John Elliott, Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford, who came back from Princeton last year, says that the fierce American recession has diluted the financial attractions of scholarly exile, but that ideological pressures are the heart of the matter. "I think what's happening now is that the trend towards political correctness is going to drive back many English expatriates in the interests of academic integrity."

Five years after Allan Bloom's *The Closing of the American Mind* was published, PC continues to exercise a malign and censorious influence, trapping free thought in its linguistic spider's web. It is a bitter irony that British academics, originally attracted by the intellectual autonomy of the American campus, should now find themselves stifled by its testy narrow-mindedness.

Margaret Bent, a medievalist and newly installed fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, describes her 17 years at Brandeis and Princeton as professionally fruitful but marred latterly by a sense that the new political agenda was confining serious enquiry. "Conservative has become a stick with which to beat not just politically unfashionable views, but also the quite different category of academic enterprises that do not take an approved stance with respect to critical methodology, race or gender," she says. "Increasing American chauvinism, with culture being constrained by socio-political goals, has left me feeling less part of a broad intellectual community in the US than I did when Eurocentrism was not a dirty word."

All of which is good news for British academic life, which will surely prosper from the return of these disenchanted natives. But could PC chase them back across the ocean and set up its mercenary shop in the British cloister? Probably not. One reason that this absurd and restrictive cult is unlikely to make headway here is that most of its content is old hat. After all, there has been a mild leftist consensus on campuses for nearly three decades. Long before the opprobrious term "Dead White European Male" had reached the universities of Alabama, Terry Eagleton was urging bemused students to get on with the class struggle. And if anything the intellectual initiative has passed to revisionists of the right in recent years, particularly in historical studies.

Add to this the reflex response of the British psyche to anything that smacks of thought-control in the classroom, and the prospects for PC look pretty poor. The antics of far-left education authorities in schools in the early 1980s were pounced upon mercilessly by the tabloid press, so imagine the headlines if a rogue Cambridge don denounced Shakespeare as Eurocentric.

So the homesick Philip Swallow can return, secure in the knowledge that the groves of British academe are as sleepy as when he left. Perhaps even now he is sitting in the departure lounge at LA International, dreaming of dreary provincial England where he will be poorly paid but "academically challenged" no more.

A split has been avoided but Europe is an issue that will continue to dog the Tories, says Peter Riddell

Is Major a 1990s Wilson?

A WEEK IN POLITICS

The usual July thunderstorms at Westminster have arrived a month early. Post-Maastricht mugginess has produced cabals in the bars, a not-so-secret meeting of a dozen ministers, the chief whip calling in rebellious new MPs to discuss whether they want a political career, headlines about splits and public declarations of support for government policy by Peter Lilley and Michael Portillo. Far away in Bogota, John Major said there was no crisis and no differences whatever in the cabinet. It was reminiscent of the "Crisis, what crisis?" headlines after James Callaghan's return from a Caribbean summit in the winter of discontent in 1979. Something was obviously up; everyone was protesting in public rather than much about how they agreed.

By last night the storm had blown itself out for the time being. No ministers are about to resign or be sacked. But when Mr Major returns tomorrow, he will find that damage has been done to the structure of his European policy, and that cracks he had sought to fill have reopened. It is more than just fractiousness among the boys

when the headmaster is away, compounded by the absence of head boy Douglas Hurd for most of the week in France. The government's real predicament is over strategy, not tactics.

Mr Major has sought to avoid the infighting over Europe which brought down Mrs Thatcher. He has been a party manager in the Harold Wilson class, blurring issues of principle to prevent splits and offering enough to each side to keep them content. He has tried to reconcile two conflicting positions: first, that Britain should be "at the heart of Europe", and second that the centralising trend should be reversed. Maastricht epitomised this strategy. Britain played a key role in shaping the treaty, which, for the first time, was in part decentralising. Many Tory MPs were not happy, but they went along before the election.

The Danish vote ten days ago removed these inhibitions. Many MPs no longer believe

they are fighting a lonely rearguard action against M Delors. Their doubts are shared across Europe: so, they say, let's make "a fresh start" (the vague Westminster euphemism for scrapping the treaty).

That view is opposed by Mr Major and Mr Hurd, who can still be bracketed together, despite attempts by the Tory right to single out Mr Hurd for attack. But the duo have so far failed to persuade their party and half a dozen of their cabinet colleagues. The trouble with Wilsonian compromises is that they have few friends once they start to unravel. Because ministers have not been candid about the choices facing Britain, they now find it hard to convince MPs that Maastricht is preferable to other options, or that

there is no realistic hope of renegotiation.

The treaty was a step towards decentralisation, even if the subsidiarity principle is vague. And many of the current complaints against Brussels "nooks and crannies" interference have nothing to do with Maastricht, but derive from implementation of the Single European Act. So the aggravation would continue even if the treaty failed: if anything, Maastricht limits such intervention.

If Mr Hurd is right, the alternative to Maastricht is not a decentralised Europe of nations, but "bad-tempered" confusion holding up enlargement for many years. It is an illusion to pretend that other countries want the EC to become just a free trade area based on a single market and cooperation between governments. Before long, an inner core of nations led by France and Germany would seek to go ahead on their own with a European army

and economic and monetary union — not only threatening the American presence in Europe, but also leaving Britain on the outside. That would violate the central tenet of British policy for the past 30 years: ensuring that Paris and Bonn do not press ahead on their own with policies that affect us yet over which we have no real influence.

The Tory doubters do not think this will happen and would not mind much if it did. One senior minister who attended the conclave of the sceptics said to me recently that the real difference with the older generation is that he is not worried about a united Germany dominating Europe. He feels no need to tie down Germany, and is relaxed about a two-tier EC.

In the immediate future, this debate is secondary to whether the rest of the EC ratifies the treaty. There is no point going ahead with the British legislation until we see the results of the Irish and, particularly, the

French referendums. If the outcomes are unfavourable, the treaty is dead. Until then, Labour's switch to an obstructionist stance bordering on outright opposition prevents any progress in the Commons. So there is no choice but to play it long and hope that everyone will soon be bored — hence the change in tone of the past two days.

Mr Hurd wants to stop France and Germany closing the door on the Danes. He is looking for a declaration outlining specific limits to the commission's role which would satisfy both the Danes and Tory MPs.

The Major-Hurd approach is not quite such wishful thinking as it now looks. One Tory opponent of the treaty said if the rest of the EC could be satisfied, then so would all but a hard core of Tory MPs. But a lot could go wrong, both in the rest of Europe and here. The reappointment of M Delors would fuel opposition. Mr Major has been reminded in the past ten days that his shrewd pre-election tactics did not close the book on the Tory party's divisions over Europe, but merely ended one chapter. Europe remains the main fault line within the party.

Proud to be a public service

Marmaduke Hussey insists the BBC stays true to Reith's ideals

We in the BBC are the inheritors of a great institution. But all institutions have to adapt to the changing circumstances in which they live or they become fossilised relics. Given the wide range of broadcasting services which will be readily available to viewers and listeners in this country, is a public broadcasting organisation like the BBC, as we approach the biennial, an anachronism rather than a necessity? That straight question deserves an answer.

First, I believe that there must be a place in this country for a powerful media influence which is in the pocket of no individual proprietor or interest group. The profound influence of the modern electronic media on opinion, on taste and on the way our democracy works and the shaping of its values is such that any government decision on our future ought to be preceded by extensive public debate.

Second, I believe there must be a place among the media of this country for a broadcasting organisation which does not have to give paramount weight in its choice of programmes to those which will earn money directly by subscription or indirectly by advertising.

I do not believe that in all circumstances a public broadcasting organisation should shrink from a degree of funding by subscription. Nor do I imply that a public broadcasting organisation can or should ever be

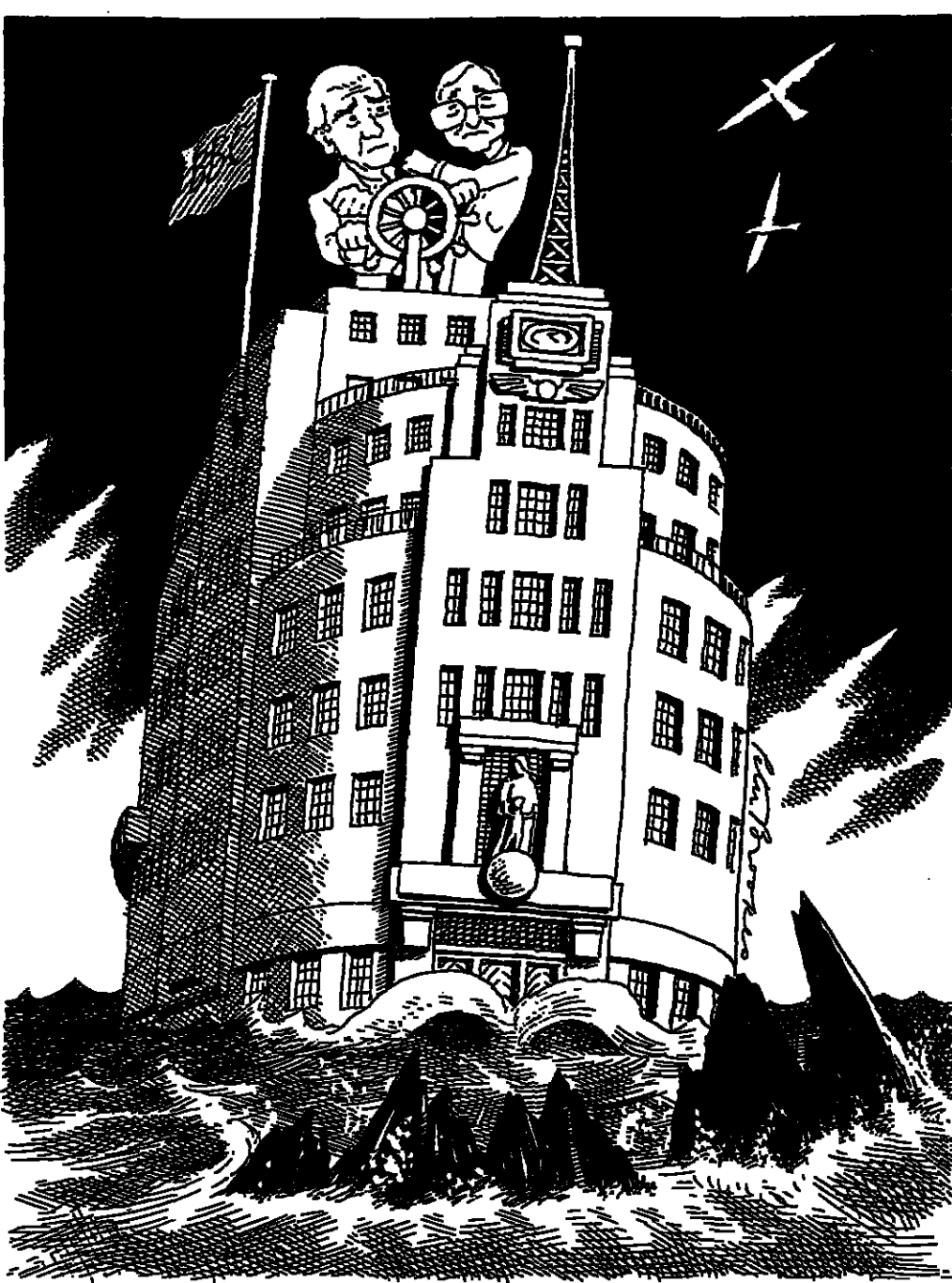
oblivious to the size of audience it attracts. What I do mean is that a public broadcasting organisation should serve a widely representative total audience across the country, but should never forgo the freedom to address unpopular topics and serve minority interests when it is desirable to do so.

The hard reality is that when the main source of income of a programme company is advertising revenue, programme decisions cannot be taken on solely artistic, ethical or public interest grounds. It is not in the nature of the beast that they should be, nor would it be rational to ask a commercial concern to behave differently.

Those who believe in the market look to it for the provision of diversity. Wiping out public service broadcasting would increase the tendency to uniformity, as we can already see in some other countries. We should certainly not seek to emulate that.

Third, I cannot believe that Britain would wish to diminish so widely admired an aspect of its influence abroad. We did not need the testimonials of Mikhail Gorbachev, Terry Waite and others, moving as they were, to persuade us that the BBC, through its World Service, promotes an image of this country — an objective and truthful image — which hugely buttresses the work of the diplomatic service and the British Council.

Fourth, in a time of great debate about the future cohesion



of the United Kingdom, I believe that a public service broadcasting organisation can play a unique and invaluable role in reflecting locality, region and nation each to itself and each to the others.

Finally, I believe that the public broadcasting organisation of this country can become the way to set standards, not just

in programme-making, but in the proper use of resources. For this reason, we are developing a range of cost-efficiency indicators which will allow us and others — to measure our performance.

These then are the principles at the heart of public service broadcasting. The principles do not change. But the vision, the

promise that we lay before the licence-paying public, must and will change — partly to take account of the new broadcasting world, partly to recall the BBC's founding values.

Both governors and management believe that the BBC's programme services must be thoroughly distinctive. We accept that in due course the

market will come to provide a fully adequate supply of certain kinds of programming. In television, it will provide general entertainment channels and channels with specialist appeal. In radio, it will provide local and national channels focused on particular segments of the popular music market.

Distinctiveness and quality alone will still be insufficient to justify public funding. The further task for the BBC will be to develop services for which there is a clear public need, either because a purely commercial market will not provide them, or because there is a risk it will not provide them; and they will be services to which there is universal access. With these as the hallmarks of our broadcasting, the BBC will be able confidently to proclaim its value to a democratic society, whose citizens depend for the quality of their lives on information, education, innovation and new thinking.

John Reith established the BBC on principles which remain valid into the 1990s and beyond: integrity, independence, the striving for excellence, the provision of the best possible service to the largest number of people and the recognition that broadcasting, has a higher purpose than the scramble for high ratings and the profit-margin for investors. The present board of governors, the board of management and all who work for the BBC in whatever capacity are determined that the corporation shall continue to be worthy of its heritage and of the public respect which it has earned over the past sixty years.

It is in this confidence that we prepare for the public debate of the next two years. The governors will make their decisions mindful of their duty under the charter always to put the public interest before the narrower institutional interest of the BBC.

I think this debate should be animated by a consciousness of what the BBC has already contributed to the life of Britain. Let us confidently paraphrase Othello: "We have done the state some service, and they know it." The author is chairman of the BBC.



...and moreover

ALAN COREN

You know how it is early in the morning, after you have done one thing with the toothbrush and the razor and you look out the window and it is not raining any more the way it was raining before it stopped, and there is just this mist coming off the sidewalk, now?

I squinted up at the sun which was pushing the mist down what mists do, and I thought: this is one of the days when you do not start work right away, this is one of the days when you walk up the street, past the old one who is bringing the milk and the young one who is carrying the mail and the tiny one who is pushing newspapers through those holes they have in the doors for pushing newspapers through, and you walk on up to where your street joins the big wide, one called Finchley Road, because that is where the place is that is cleaning your trousers, and it is a good day to collect your trousers, before you start work.

But when I got to the big wide one, I noticed that something was not the way it had been before. I noticed this because I had to wait to cross to where the trousers were, on account of the big red buses and the heavy trucks that were driving between me and the place with the trousers and I knew it was not a good time to do the running with the traffic. You could get a wound, down there. These are things you learn. I remembered the time in Pamplona, when I

was younger than I am now and had not learned those things, and a cab ran over my suitcase, and the suitcase was never the same, after that. So I waited, which was how I noticed what it was that wasn't the way it was before. There was a new café there, where there used to be a greengrocery.

The café was called Papa's. When I finally crossed over to the place where the trousers were I said to the cleaning one: "I see there is a new café here." "Yes," he said. "It has been here a week, now. They could not get this stain out. They have done a note. They say it is oil."

"They are right," I said. "It is the oil of the mow. If I ask for the Special Treatment they offer in the window, will it come out?"

The cleaning one shrugged. "Who can say?" he said. "I left the trousers with him anyway, and I crossed the road again, and I looked through the window into Papa's. It had a red tiled floor and round white marble-topped tables and black iron chairs and an electric fan in the ceiling, and I thought: I know why they have called it Papa's, and I went in and sat down."

A waitress came up. She was one of the slim ones, with the big dark eyes they have, if you are lucky.

"Welcome to Cricklewood," I said. It is the kind of thing you say, if you have known a lot of women, over the years. "It is

good to see a café dedicated to Hemingway."

"I'm sorry," she said.

"I smiled. She was very young. 'The owner of this café would understand,'" I said, but gently. "Ernest Hemingway was a writer. He was one of the best writers there was. People called him Papa. He used to sit in cafés just like this, in the days before Paris was the way it is now. The cafés were called the Dome and Les Deux Magots and stuff like that, and they had red tiled floors, too, and white marble tables and black iron chairs and electric fans, and Papa would sit there writing in this ring-backed notebook he had, while the little saucers piled up in front of him."

"Does he still do it?" she said. "I looked away. I did not want to tell her it was thirty years since he had put the shotgun in his mouth."

"Ask your boss," I said. "He knows about all that." She did the thing with the cloth that makes tables shine. "My boss is my dad," she said. "That is why we called it Papa's."

I picked up the menu, after that. There were a lot of breakfasts on it.

"I'll have the one with the eggs and the bacon and the tomatoes," I said. "The Number Four."

"Is that the one with the fried bread as well?" she said.

"Yes," I said, "that is the one it is."

Fly by night

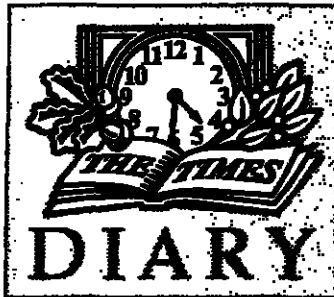
AS HISTORIANS examine with some disappointment the less than revealing Rudolf Hess papers, the man who guarded the Nazi war leader on his first full night in Britain yesterday spoke for the first time in over 50 years of his encounter with the deputy Führer.

Frank Day, now 75, was training to be a Spitfire pilot at RAF Turnhouse when he was released of his duties on May 11, 1941, and told that he would spend the night guarding a prisoner. "We were not told who we were guarding or where we were going. When we arrived I immediately realised that the man was Hess. He seemed much younger than I had imagined, and looked a little nervous. There was a man with him carrying a lot of pill bottles, which we presumed had been confiscated from Hess."

Although Hess is known to have had perfect command of English, Day confirms what several historians have long believed: that for periods Hess refused to speak other than in his native tongue. "I could not understand a word he was saying. He only spoke German when he was around us," says Day, who spent the night outside a well-appointed private room in Buchanan castle while his captive paced up and down inside.

The trainee pilot, who went on to become a squadron leader, says he was not much impressed by his prisoner. "Frankly I was much more interested in learning how to fly — but I suppose, thinking back, it was a piece of history."

After guarding the most famous flier to Britain from Germany, Day soon found himself making the return trip. He was shot down and imprisoned in Sialia Luft 3, where he became involved in the



Great Escape. Now retired and living in Sussex, Day spends his time in far more relaxed fashion now, fishing from his boat moored in Chichester harbour.

President Bush and his entourage arrived in Rio yesterday, but not all the president's men could be put up with their boss in the Sheraton. Due to Bush's late departure to attend, the US consulate in Brazil had an accommodation problem. Most rooms in the city were already let. The answer was the VIP Hotel, one of the so-called "love hotels" which is usually let by the hour rather than the night, has mirrors on the bedroom ceilings, and is given the highest accolade of five bunnies in the Brazilian edition of Playboy.

Prenatal portrait

SALMAN RUSHDIE has launched a search for a painting of his mother, when she was pregnant with the author-to-be in Bombay nearly 50 years ago. The picture, commissioned by Rushdie's father in 1947, may prove even harder to pin down than the author of *The Satanic Verses* himself, for it is known that the canvas was subsequently painted over.

Rushdie announced his search on Wednesday at one of his increasingly frequent forays out of hid-

ing, when he attended a meeting of buyers at W.H. Smith's Swindon headquarters. He was giving them a taste of his next novel, *The Moor's Last Sigh*, due in autumn 1993, in which the tale of the painting, which he heard as a boy from his mother, will loom large. Rushdie's father, according to the author, commissioned the picture from an artist down on his luck, but decided that the finished product was "too sexy". The artist, reluctant to waste the canvas, promptly painted something else over the top, but Rushdie hopes that by highlighting the incident in his new novel, he may find someone, somewhere, who knows where the canvas is to be found.



Unholy alliance

ONE of the more unlikely outcomes of the Princess Diana story has been the alliance of John Taylor, the Bishop of St Albans and lord high almoner to the Queen, and Paul Raymond, the sex impresario. The bishop, sitting in the Newsnight studio on Monday night, was launching into Andrew Neil, editor of *The Sunday Times*, who was being interviewed on the pavement outside his favourite restaurant, Le Caprice. As he casti-

gated the paper's reporting of the royal marriage story, Raymond was listening to the interview in his Arlington Street flat above the restaurant. Recognising the location, he rushed downstairs barefooted and in no more than a multicoloured dressing-gown began berating Neil with the words: "You are trying to bring down the monarchy."

The BBC minder employed on outside live broadcasts to prevent unseemly incidents, was reduced to strong-arm tactics to keep the heckler out of shot.

An unrepentant Raymond says: "I was so disgusted I decided to run out there and then. You might expect such behaviour in Camden, but not here in SW1. I wanted to tell him what I thought, but unfortunately the BBC man managed to keep me out of the camera's way. But I had my say as he returned to his table inside the restaurant."

Another minister was present at the now infamous meeting of Tory rebels on Maastricht last week. Stand up, the junior home office minister Peter Lloyd, who has until now managed to keep his name off the published lists of those in attendance. Many of Lloyd's Euro-sceptic colleagues were surprised by his presence. "We thought he was just another grey loyalist," said one. They should have known him better. He has always been an anti-federalist, and his views have hardened further in recent weeks. As the minister responsible for immigration, he has been arguing bitterly with his EC counterparts over border controls. What is more, exactly 10 years ago, Lloyd resigned his first government appointment as a ministerial PPS in protest at the Bill establishing the Northern Ireland assembly. Do not put it past him to do the same again.



MEANINGLESS TARGETS

Why should rich countries give poor ones 0.7 per cent of their gross domestic products? Why not 0.5 per cent, 0.2 per cent or, in some cases, 1 per cent? A Martian would find it hard to believe that an obscure debate about completely arbitrary numbers is dominating the biggest meeting ever held of world political leaders, a meeting allegedly called to deal with dire environmental emergencies threatening the very existence of Planet Earth. Yet so it is.

As George Bush, John Major and the rest of the Western diplomatic cavalcade arrive in Rio this week, they will face righteous indignation from the assembled representatives of the developing nations. The outrage will be directed not at America's energy-guzzling or Britain's production of acid rain or water pollution. The poor will be complaining about money, and not just money to pay for environmental improvements or to control populations, or even to feed hundreds of millions of starving people. The issue at Rio has predictably become one of money pure and simple, "other people's money".

That at least, seems to be the view of politicians from the developing countries, who are demanding a firm commitment from Europe, America and Japan to meeting the United Nations' "official" aid target by the year 2000. This is their minimum price for a new convention by which they would control the environmental consequences of future economic growth. The Bush administration shows no sign of agreeing to this bizarre and unnecessary trade-off. As a result, the Rio conference has degenerated into the kind of anti-American ritual that merely ensures an even lower financial appropriation the next time Congress debates aid.

So what attitude should Britain adopt to the UN target of raising aid to 0.7 per cent of GDP? The answer should be a good deal clearer than the ones given at Rio by Mr Major and Baroness Chalker. Mr Major has said that Britain accepts the target "in principle" and would move towards it "as and when circumstances permit".

He would have done better to say openly what he must surely believe, that the target is an arbitrary and meaningless sop to humour Third World leaders at international con-

ferences, a sign of what is now known as "Rio Fever". Such targets are a throwback to the era of north-south confrontation symbolised by the UN's demands in the mid-1970s for a New International Economic Order. At the heart of those demands stood a global parody of the Western welfare state, with poor countries benefiting, as a pseudo-legal right, from ever-growing transfers from the industrialised world.

The world, rich, poor and post-communist, has recently come to accept a new realism in most matters economic. Development and prosperity depend not on aid receipts but on the ability of political economies to harness individual enterprise through market forces. Much of the money transferred from rich countries, far from relieving poverty, has been used to wage wars, support military dictatorships and subsidise corrupt elites. American aid has a particularly bad reputation on this score.

These failures and abuses do not justify a blanket condemnation of all international aid, any more than the disincentive effects of unemployment benefits justify the abolition of the welfare state. But the over-riding test of aid is not input but output. Experience has decisively refuted the idea that amounts of money spent on aid can be used even as a rough proxy for the benefits that accrue to developing economies or their poorest citizens. That Third World leaders want to be given masses of cash is hardly surprising. But instead of complaining about meaningless input targets, they should develop criteria to judge the value of the aid they receive.

The Rio conference was an ideal opportunity to set such targets for environmental improvement, to offer the industrialised countries a strict system of payment by results. It has fumbled that challenge because it has become an old-fashioned Third World rant with an attendant rabble of unrepresentative non-governmental organisations. Britain's aid programme has generally been "high quality", focusing on developing markets and hedged about with conditions on human and political rights. Britain need not apologise for failing to meet meaningless targets. Mr Major should be immunised immediately against Rio Fever.

PRINCELY PRESCRIPTION

For several years, the Prince of Wales has been chipping away determinedly at the complacency of the medical profession. Whatever the flaws and inadequacies of the national health service, British doctors are among the best in the world. But their attitude has bred arrogance. The prince has been right to remind doctors that they cannot ignore pressure from their patients to adapt to changing demands.

Last night, he renewed his plea. Addressing the Royal College of General Practitioners, he called for GPs to learn from the best practices of others and to experiment more. The size and style of each general practice, he said, should be designed to suit the population it serves. GPs should be more willing to use the skills of others such as counsellors, osteopaths, physiotherapists, health visitors, complementary therapists and healers. Medical education should be reformed so that general teaching takes place before not after hospital specialism; GPs are too inculcated with the bad habits of hospitals, consultants and big-money medicine.

In some areas, the prince's prognosis is puzzling. He criticises the expansion of practices into health centres, like "mini-hospitals". Yet he recommends that GPs hire professionals from other disciplines, a move that is bound to expand the size of their clinics. He pleads for the 24-hour call-out while failing to acknowledge that patients have become far more demanding, ever more ready to summon a doctor at night.

Nonetheless, the prince is right to point to the best practices that might improve the mediocre. The Marylebone Health Centre, of which he is patron, employs counsellors and complementary therapists alongside its

GPs. Drug prescriptions are less than half the national average and hospital referrals have fallen by 30 per cent. Many doctors are snuffy about unorthodox treatment because they see it as alternative rather than complementary, as intellectually and commercially threatening. The success of Marylebone shows that these methods can sit happily alongside conventional medicine and can offer relief where orthodox medicine has failed.

The consumer is certainly behind the prince. A Mintel survey last year found that the market for homeopathic medicines had doubled between 1986 and 1990 to £12 million. Mintel expected a further £3 million increase in 1991 and estimated the entire market for "complementary therapy" to be worth £450 million. Patients who can afford it are voting with their feet. Those who cannot afford it are demanding such treatment, which is usually cheaper than conventional medicine, on the NHS. Now that the health department has sanctioned complementary therapists within general practices, doctors should respond to this demand.

What the prince extols above all is openness of mind. In any profession, this is difficult to achieve. Training tends to be not just rigorous but also archaic and rigid. Once qualified, practitioners tend to feel little need to update their standards of practice. Yet most of what the prince recommends is beginning to take place. Some is coming as an indirect result of the shake-up of the NHS aimed at giving patients more choice. Practices that offer popular services will thrive, while those that ignore demand will contract. For the first time since the NHS was set up, the performance and attitudes of doctors are under public scrutiny.

VIRUSES NO JOKE

Computer viruses started life in the mid-1980s as little more than an ingenious student prank. Their very names — the most famous include Stoned, Cascade, Jerusalem and Brain — conveyed mischief rather than malice. They were designed to trick rather than to harm. They are no longer funny.

A virus is an encoded series of instructions — the simplest of them can be joined down on the back of an envelope — which a computer will obey. It will secretly copy itself from a floppy storage disc into the computer memory; it will hide in the computer memory, defying detection by normal memory search operations; it will copy itself onto any other disc used with the system; and in response to a trigger such as a particular time and date in the computer's calendar and clock, the virus will start to corrupt any data stored in the computer's memory. Viruses can also be passed computer-to-computer over a telephone modem.

In a society which has become so dependent on computers, the public attitude to viruses is changing. They are being seen as a bizarre form of industrial sabotage instead of a technological version of a practical joke. This is not a field in which young computer buffs should be tempted to experiment. Had this adjustment in attitude already occurred, there would be no question of distributing in Britain a simple handbook for DIY computer viruses, the existence of which *The Times* reports today.

A 14-year-old with only the barest computer knowledge could produce working viruses from the instructions given in the book, it is said. Given the fascination which

computers generate, especially among male adolescents, there is an obvious risk that the book may become a schoolboy craze, and an epidemic of home-made viruses follow. The police are asking specialist booksellers to withhold the book from sale as an invitation to crime. It should be no more acceptable than, say, a DIY guide to joy-riding or a manual for pick-pocketing. The transmission of a computer virus in order to damage stored data is already a criminal offence. It is more difficult to make an offence merely of writing, having or selling a virus program.

Nonetheless, the damage done by viruses, usually to confidential information stored on computer files, is considerable. The cost of treatment by electronic "disinfection" of a computer system is rising. Scotland Yard runs a computer crime bureau and viruses are one of the main crimes with which it deals. The latest version is the "protection racket": somebody invents a virus and starts rumours of its potency, and an accomplice devises an antidote program which is then sold to computer users to protect them.

Public awareness is already starting to limit the damage from viruses. The Michelangelo virus, which was designed to be triggered on Michelangelo's birthday, March 6, was rendered harmless in most cases by advancing computer clocks by a day. The same is becoming a routine precaution whenever a Friday the 13th is due. New generations of computers will have viral immunity built in. Eventually even the most perverse computer freak will grow tired of the fun. But meanwhile this is no time to be recruiting more of them.

The law, the press, and public respect for royal privacy

From Mr Cosmo Russell

Sir, Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights of 1950, which Britain signed and ratified many years ago, states that "everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence". This wording has been interpreted as valid for both sexes.

Since all without reservation have this right it would appear that it has been violated consistently and recently in the case of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

In view of the obvious pain and embarrassment caused not only to the prince and princess, the Queen and the royal children, it would seem strange that redress might not be attained by a British court and a stop put to the current practice.

However, if all else fails, the right and its protection could be referred by anyone to the European Human Rights Commission in Strasbourg. It is vital that the right should be protected, and clear that any further right of freedom of the press could not be sustained in seeking protection.

Yours etc,
COSMO RUSSELL,
Parapet House, Lenham, Kent.
June 8.

From the Editor of Solicitors Journal

Sir, The privacy of the royal family and their subjects does need protection, but not in the manner suggested by Mr Clive Soley's Freedom and Responsibility of the Press Bill.

In defence of the Maastricht treaty

From Sir Nicholas Henderson

Sir, Your thunderous call for the death of Maastricht (leading article, June 11) does not take account of practical advantages in it for Britain, which include the following:

1. The Maastricht settlement contributes to the creation of "an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe" to which all members are committed by the opening words of the Treaty of Rome.

The move to closer co-ordination in foreign and security policy is explicit in Maastricht. The UK, like the other members, if they are to exert influence and power, whether to preserve peace or promote welfare, can only do so if they belong to some over-arching European Community.

Membership of an integrated Community will have the effect of magnifying the impact we make world-wide. Maastricht should pave the way to bringing about the necessary structural changes. That machinery for doing this can be devised without causing some members to shy by evoking the emotive word federalism is certainly possible; and indeed Maastricht eschews all mention of the dread word.

2. But if the ability to act together on any issue that affects the whole Community that cannot be resolved regionally is to be a key product of Maastricht, not only on security and foreign policy but on "internal" issues such as terrorism, drugs or the environment, it is equally important to recognise the corollary of subsidiarity in Maastricht: nothing should be decided at the centre if it can be dealt with at the national level.

3. Under Maastricht the members are committed in accordance with the EMU to promoting and co-operating in the creation of a market economy, including freedom of competition, sound public finance and price stability. It is a fact, if not a cliché, that the economies of Western Europe are interdependent to an extent that renders talk of sovereignty an irrelevance.

4. It is a popular view in the UK that we alone obey the rules whereas the other members of the Community talk clean and play dirty. Under Maastricht there will be procedures for ensuring that rules are observed by penalising those who fail to comply with their obligations.

5. The European Parliament will have greater responsibility, but Maastricht recognises explicitly the essential role of national parliaments.

Certainly there are problems in many countries arising out of Maastricht, but for *The Times* to advocate the unravelling of the Maastricht structure in the maelstrom of the modern world and without apparent regard to its benefits for Britain is to fall short of editorial responsibility.

Yours etc.,

NICHOLAS HENDERSON,
6 Fairholt Street, SW7.
June 11.

Cadbury report

From Sir Simon Haskel and Sir Sigmund Sternberg

Sir, No one can deny that the Cadbury report on corporate governance (leading article, May 28; letters, June 3) is a step in the right direction. The disastrous catalogue of business scandals had to be addressed.

The basic problem is this. During the 1980s the government persuaded millions of people to become shareholders and then abandoned them, almost unprotected, in a world populated by people like Maxwell and Clowes.

Labour recognised the changes that were taking place in the business world at that time, and was constantly suggesting practical improvements in regulation. We shall

The bill attempts to deal with the manner in which stories are reported; but what is needed is control over how information is gathered.

Recently there have been gross invasions of the privacy of not only the Princess of Wales but also of private individuals by press photographers with telephoto lenses invading the home or places where an individual would have a reasonable expectation of privacy. In 1981, following the report by the Younger committee in 1972, the Law Commission drafted a bill to prevent such abuses; like many Law Commission proposals it has never been implemented.

Specific, well-defined protection of personal privacy would be more effective and less open to abuse than the introduction of press censorship by the state. Mr Soley's bill seems unhelpful because if a newspaper story is untrue then there is a remedy in defamation. If information is true it is rarely in the public interest to suppress it. It is in the interest of all citizens, however, to have better protection for our personal privacy.

Yours faithfully,
MARIE STAUNTON,
Editor, *Solicitors Journal*,
21-27 Lamb's Conduit Street, WC1.

From the Director of the Prince's Trust and the Royal Jubilee Trusts

Sir, Since I must assume that Mr Anthony Holden (letter, June 10) is referring to me, may I correct his frequently repeated complaint that the Prince of Wales, through "a Palace spokesman", had some per-

Monarchy in Lesotho

From the Minister for Overseas Development

Sir, There are some inaccuracies in Archbishop Huddleston's letter to you printed on June 6 about the monarchy in Lesotho.

It is not true that I summoned the former king to my office without warning on the morning of his departure. He wrote to me to request the meeting; my office had tried (daily, for about a week) to arrange the meeting earlier, but were unable to contact him.

I am not pursuing any "hidden agenda" in Lesotho. My aim is simple and open: to assist with the arrangements for free and fair elections now set for November 28, for which we and the Commonwealth

Caring as a career

From Mr R. E. Gutch

Sir, Anthea Saxon ("Going grey with care", *Life & Times*, June 1) does not say at what age her drug agony began. Arthritis is the biggest single cause of physical disability in the United Kingdom and Arthritis Care is very concerned about the number of carers who begin their career in childhood.

The first round of community care plans under the new NHS and Community Care Act lays great stress on the part which relatives and friends can play in helping people with disabilities to continue to live in their own homes. The plans also make it clear that assistance with domestic work is going to be the very lowest priority.

When, as has recently occurred, a member of Arthritis Care with two daughters, aged 11 and 13, is refused any home care solely on the ground that her family can look after her, one begins to believe that Victorian values have indeed returned.

Yours faithfully,
R. GUTCH (Chief Executive),
Arthritis Care,
18 Stephenson Way, NW1.

Blowing up a storm

From Mr Jacob de Vries

Sir, The caption beneath the photograph of Benny Goodman says "the late Benny Goodman in London in 1980 studying a score for that year's Aldeburgh Festival" (*Life & Times*, June 3). That is only partly correct. Goodman did not play at the Aldeburgh Festival in 1980 but at the cigarette-sponsored Chamber Music Festival in October of that year at Snape Maltings.

I had signed Goodman up to play Brahms; I still bear the scars. He was due to play one of the clarinet sonatas with Sir Clifford Curzon: the Clarinet Quintet with the Cleveland Quartet and the Clarinet Trio with Clifford Curzon and Pierre Fournier. Additionally he was contracted to play an evening of jazz. He fulfilled only the first part of that contract.

He played with Curzon, refused to play with the Cleveland because "they shuffled their feet too much".

continue to press for statutory regulation until ordinary people's investments, pensions and savings are properly protected.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON HASKEL
(Executive Chairman),
SIGMUND STERNBERG
(Deputy Chairman),
Labour Finance & Industry Group,
Star House, Grafton Road, NW5.

From Mr Ian Harley

Sir, The Companies Act 1989 permits public companies to issue summary financial statements and many companies are now offering to their shareholders the option of receiving such summary statements as an alternative to receiving the statutory annual report and accounts comprising two documents: the

sonal involvement in countering the serialisation of his book in *The Sunday Times*. Perhaps Mr Holden's continuing sensitivity comes from the fact that it was not His Royal Highness but his fellow journalists who turned on him so roundly?

I am the director of a charity, not a "Palace spokesman", but the issue which worried me in 1988 was that media titillation about their private lives obscured the serious work of charities such as our own with which the Prince and Princess of Wales are involved. This, I fear, still holds true today.

Yours faithfully,
TOM SHEBBEARE,
Director,
The Prince's Trust and the Royal Jubilee Trusts,
1 Bedford Row, WC1.
June 10.

From Lord Glendon

Sir, It is pointless to blame the press for the present sad state of the royal family, brutally though some papers have behaved towards it. They were handed the situation on a plate.

As one of the oldest privy counsellors, I think we should all pray now, not only for the Queen in her appalling dilemma but also that others down the line should be given the strength to pull themselves together for the sake of the throne and the country.

Yours faithfully,
GLENDON,
House of Lords.
June 8.

are providing support and to which the Lesotho government is committed. I am sure that it was right for the former king to remain in London until the Commonwealth secretary-general was able to set up talks between him and the head of the present government, Major-General Ramamaema. This meeting took place on June 5.

I am pleased to note the agreement that the present election arrangements should be safeguarded, and also that arrangements should be made for the return to Lesotho of the former king before the beginning of August.

Yours faithfully,
LYNDA CHALKER,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
King Charles Street, SW1.
June 9.

A bridge too far

From Mr Robert Hutchison

Sir, The memorial to "Bomber" Harris, which has aroused such controversy, has been paid for by voluntary subscription. Simple but striking memorials to another member of the British armed forces will be inaugurated next year in Oswestry, the place of his birth in 1893, and Shrewsbury, his home for much of his life.

While trying to construct a temporary bridge, Wilfred Owen was killed in action one week before the end of the first world war. His was a highly distinctive conscience and voice — a courageous soldier with pronounced pacifist tendencies. His poem, "Strange meeting", includes the haunting line, "I am the enemy you killed, my friend".

"Bomber" Harris has his loyal admirers; but Wilfred Owen can, I suggest, still speak to millions.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT HUTCHISON
(Chairman, The Wilfred Owen Association),
22 Hawthorn Road,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
June 3.

insisted on the Melos of Stuttgart and grudgingly agreed to play with the Amadeus Quartet and, with only five days notice, withdrew from the trio altogether.

He walked into the rehearsal for the quintet (the performance being the same evening) and calmly announced that he was going to play Mozart and not Brahms. The Amadeus, being the professionals they were, did not flinch though Radio 3 were somewhat upset.

Goodman was the most unpleasant, temperamental and unpredictable artist I had ever had to deal with. But, as Sir Clifford said after their first rehearsal: "The old man (they were the same age) blows short but he blows beautifully."

Yours faithfully,
JACOB DE VRIES,
The Singers' Studio,
13 Shaftesbury Avenue,
Bedford.
June 3.

directors' report and accounts and an annual review and summary financial statement.

This option is beguiling until one realises that the summary financial statement does not need to contain any details of the directors' remuneration and emoluments — a subject not without interest to shareholders and indeed one of possible controversy.

Yours faithfully,
IAN HARLEY,
25 Ashworth Road,
Maida Vale, W9.

Business letters, page 25

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Construction risk of Danube dam

From Professor I. J. Smalley and Dr T. A. Dijkstra

Sir, We read with concern the article on the Gabčíkovo dam (Saturday Review, June 6). We appreciate that the construction of this project will cause great environmental damage, but it could be that there are more obvious reasons for feeling apprehensive about the construction of an embanked canal and a large dam in that part of the Danube valley.

The 65-ft-high embankment of the canal will be built from local soil material, and in the Danube valley this is largely loess, a silty material with a low plasticity index and a very limited suitability for dam and canal construction.

The US Bureau of Reclamation built, in 1975, a large loess embankment dam in Idaho, on the Teton river. It collapsed on filling, largely due to the unsuitability of the loess construction material. If the US Bureau of Reclamation, one of the most experienced dam constructors in the world, cannot erect a safe loess dam, we doubt whether the Gabčíkovo constructors can manage it.

The details given in the article suggest that the design of the long, high embankments is essentially inadequate to prevent through-flow of water. Leaks cause rapid erosion of the loess construction material; this led to the failure of the Teton dam. We feel that the Gabčíkovo project is similarly at risk.

Yours faithfully,
IAN SMALLEY,
TOM DIJKSTRA,
University of Leicester,
Centre for Loess Research
and Documentation,
Department of Geography,
Bennett Building,
University Road, Leicester.
June 9.

'Professional' politics

From Mr Harry Eyres

Sir, In his interesting article, "Exit the poet-leader" (June 9), Roger Boyes appears to regard the replacement of the dissident generation of politicians in Eastern Europe by a new breed of pragmatists as a natural and in many ways desirable evolution. By implicitly contrasting the "professional" politician, Vaclav Klaus, with the old-fashioned, romantic intellectual, Vaclav Havel (adapted at "a midnight discussion on Kierkegaard"), I feel he caricatures the current President of Czechoslovakia.

I can never forget a televised meeting of Civic Forum in Bratislava, late in 1989, at which Havel won the support of a whole hall by admitting that he and his colleagues were not professional politicians — "at least", he added with deliciously dry wit, "not in the sense that our opponents are professionals. But perhaps that is not a disadvantage".

Seldom can irony and modesty have swept a country irresistibly before them as they did then.

Now of course things are very different in Czechoslovakia. The country has woken up after the celebrations with the predictable dire hangover. But I hope Mr Boyes's obituary notice is premature. In his latest book, *Summer Meditations*, Havel restates his firmly held belief that politics is the art of the possible, but that "politics as the practice of morality is possible".

Yours etc.,
HARRY EYRES,
9 Spenser Road, SE24.
June 10.

Grave goods

From the Reverend Canon D. G. Richards

Sir, Surely Queen Victoria takes the prize for what accompanied her in her grave (Mr Cheney's letter, June 5):

"She had placed in her coffin her favourite photographs of Prince Albert, and of her children; a garment worked upon by Princess Alice; keepsakes from all her favourite servants and relations — chains, brooches, lockets, shawls, handkerchiefs. Then there were the plaster casts which she had taken of her children's little limbs. Heaven was to be cluttered with objects and mementoes, just like one of the Queen's drawing rooms at Osborne or Balmoral... Also placed in her left hand was a photograph of John Brown."

So records A. N. Wilson in *Eminent Victorians* (1989).
Yours faithfully,
DEREK RICHARDS,
The Rectory,
Llandudno, Gwynedd.

From Mr Gerry Lucas

Sir, In the hope that the hereafter will give me enough time to learn what I could not learn on Earth — I will take my Masonic Ritual Handbook.

Yours faithfully,
G. E. LUCAS,
23 Southover, Woodside Park, N12.

From Mrs C. A. Costin

Sir, I would choose to be inside my deep freeze, thus hedging my bets — the last trump or a medical breakthrough.

Yours faithfully,
C. A. COSTIN,
Tripps Cottage, Stamford Road,
Marholm, Peterborough,
Cambridgeshire.

FRIDAY JUNE 12 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

Buyout group returns to market in one of biggest non-privatisation share issues

MFI managers to share £35m from flotation

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

THE directors and senior staff of MFI Furniture Group are set to share in a £35 million bonanza when the company returns to the stock market next month after a seven-year absence.

Limited details of the £800 million flotation, which will be one of the biggest-ever non-privatisation share issues on the stock market, were unveiled yesterday in a pathfinder prospectus.

MFI, which boasts the Hygena and Schreiber furniture brands, was acquired from Asda in October 1987 in a £715 million leveraged management buyout, then the largest-ever deal of its kind in Europe. Asda had acquired MFI in 1985.

The prospectus shows that the seven executive directors who backed the buyout will each receive bonuses of £1 million, with an additional £300,000 for Derek Hunt, the chairman. Trevor Tallett, the managing director of the retail operations, who joined the main board in 1989, will receive £215,000. In total, £10 million of bonuses are being paid to employees, including managers investing in the buyout.

Managers and directors originally acquired a 3.75 per cent stake in the company for £600,000. On flotation, this stake will increase to 15 per cent, although this will immediately be diluted by the new equity coming into the company. The final size of the management stake after flotation is sensitive to a number of factors, including the pricing of the shares and the amount of debt retained by

the company. However, it is likely to be worth at least £25 million. About three quarters of that stake will be held by the seven original director participants in the buyout, six of whom put £80,000 into the deal, £60,000 at the time of the buyout and £20,000 at a refinancing in 1989. Mr Hunt put £100,000 of his own money into the company.

If bonuses are included in the calculation, the managers may achieve a near fifty-fold return on their investment. The return was originally planned to be far greater, with the management taking twice as big a stake as they will actually achieve. However, the sharp downturn in consumer spending that followed the buyout made nonsense of the package of incentives built into the deal. It was renegotiated at the time of the refinancing.

City reaction to the prospectus was favourable, although the flotation price will not be published until July 2. The management team is highly regarded for having transformed MFI's fortunes at a time when the economic backdrop could not have been more hostile. "These guys have been to hell and back," said Nick Bubb, an analyst at Morgan Stanley.

MFI has been highly profitable at the trading level since the buyout, although interest and debt repayments meant a bottom-line loss was reported in 1990 and 1991. Since 1987, MFI has paid more than £260 million of interest and funded capital investment of more than £250 million. It is Britain's biggest furniture retailer with

11 per cent of the market. Mr Hunt said the flotation "will give us the flexibility to press forward with our plans for development of the business and to take advantage of economic recovery." He added: "We have probably picked exactly the right time for the flotation." A trading statement included with the prospectus said that underlying sales in the current year were in line with last year.

About a quarter of the shares will be available to the public; the remainder will be placed with institutions and UK financial intermediaries. The flotation will raise about £546 million, which will be used to repay the borrowings taken on to finance the buyout. Further shares will be sold by existing investors, including a 25 per cent stake in the company retained by Asda. Institutional investors, which were led by Charterhouse, Citicorp, CIB and Globe, are expected to hold on to about half their holdings. The managers are entitled to sell up to 20 per cent of their holdings.

A pro-forma profit and loss account shows profit before tax of £67.1 million for the year to April 25 after adjusting for the effects of debt repayment. The actual profit figure was £8.8 million after interest of £54.2 million. Independent analysis suggested the company would be floated on a multiple of about 19 times historic earnings, valuing MFI at about £800 million. The pro-forma balance sheet shows gearing of about 100 per cent and interest cover of about ten times.

Comment, page 25



Four managers who will profit: from left, David Brock, John Randall, Derek Hunt and John O'Connell

Senior Lloyd's name attacks underwriting standards

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

A LEADING representative of moderate opinion among the 22,500 Lloyd's names launched a stinging attack on poor underwriting standards in the market and gave warning that names' willingness to support Lloyd's was close to breaking point.

Mark Farrer, outgoing chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Members and a former member of the Council of Lloyd's, delivered a wide ranging critique of the management of the Lloyd's market in the association's annual report.

He wrote: "It is clear that an uncomfortably large minority [of underwriters] have

not shown themselves equal to the task of underwriting successfully in today's conditions". These represented "a heavy drag on the market" and would do so "for many years to come".

Mr Farrer, who is a partner in Farrer & Co, the Queen's solicitors, also predicted that the results of the panels of enquiry into the biggest syndicate losses "will point inexorably towards regulatory failures and the consequent need for new bylaws with teeth to prevent any recurrence of the incompetence disclosed". There was "harmful and destructive perception" outside the market, commented

Mr Farrer, "that Lloyd's is a great deal better at enforcing its regulations against names who may have lost everything than enforcing proper standards of trading in the market against those who have subsequently proved to have lost them everything".

The wave of litigation resulting from the losses could have been avoided by the development of an internal arbitration system, Mr Farrer said. "I record with great regret the constant opposition to this development, more or less throughout the term of my service on the Council, for reasons that I could never find convincing."

Mr Farrer was also critical of the "hard-nosed" approach adopted by Dr Mary Archer's hardship committee towards destitute names. He called on Lloyd's "to take a more practical, albeit more expensive, approach to these problems". He added: "There is little to be gained from the hard-nosed policy that was originally advertised if names are not availing themselves of this facility because it offers them nothing."

In a bleak warning on prospects, Mr Farrer said names' willingness to support Lloyd's in meaningful numbers was "uncomfortably close to the reasonable level of endurance".

His criticisms will carry more weight than those expressed by some embittered names because it comes from an organisation seen as generally supportive of the leadership of Lloyd's.

The association has been criticised for giving its approval to measures announced by Lloyd's without canvassing its 9,000 members. Some names have attacked it for coming out in favour of the £500 million central fund levy announced by Lloyd's last week.

Mr Farrer stands down from the association's committee this year and will be succeeded by Neil Shaw, chairman of Tate & Lyle.

Tempos, page 22

Surge in spending loses its impetus

BY ROSS TYEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S post-election spending boom has fizzled out but high street sales will continue to make a gradual recovery, the Confederation of British Industry said.

The volume of goods sold in shops increased only slightly in May, according to the CBI's quarterly distributive trades survey. The findings reinforce evidence that Britain's economic recovery remains extremely weak.

Although CBI economists are confident that growth resumed in the second quarter, the Treasury is known to have cut its growth forecast for this year to 1 per cent. Nigel Whitaker, chairman of the CBI's distributive trades panel, said that optimism among retail and wholesale managers surveyed was at its highest since August 1988. Investment intentions in retail and distribution were positive for the first time since 1989.

A recovery in sales of durable goods, such as washing machines, furniture and carpets, during April proved short-lived. They were down by a third in May, year on year.

Bank of England figures on banknotes in circulation pointed to weak spending. Notes, the main component of M0, the narrow money measure, showed an annual rise of 0.9 per cent in nominal terms in the week to June 10.

Sixty-two German economists attacked the Maastricht treaty as weak, hastily prepared and likely to expose Europe to economic tension.

The German current account deficit widened sharply to DM 2.4 billion in April, with the trade surplus narrowing by more than half to DM 2.3 billion.

Japan's trade surplus widened to \$7.87 billion in May, from \$4.16 billion a year earlier.

Letter, page 25

Receiver to Maxwell finds cash

ONE of the men leading the hunt for Robert Maxwell's missing cash mountain said yesterday he had tracked down millions of pounds, and appealed for government help to find even bigger sums.

Months of "hot pursuit" activity through the European banking system had finally led to the securing of cash which was being moved around by the Maxwell empire, said Peter Phillips, the receiver to Robert Maxwell's personal estate.

He appealed to the government to help in the hunt, pointing out that Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, had criticised the way that the Maxwell pension funds had been raided.

He did not disclose the sum that had been tracked down, but it is believed to be about £4 million. "The amount is relative, but it is a major achievement to have nailed this money," he said. "I have had to go all over Europe to secure the money, and during the hot pursuit activity it was still moving within jurisdictions," he added.

Pensions enquiry, page 2

Shares dip after Pilkington cuts dividend

BY MICHAEL TATE
CITY EDITOR

PILKINGTON, the glass manufacturer, bowed to the inevitable and cut its dividend for the first time since it became a public company. Shareholders will receive a second interim payment of 3.07p a share, compared with 4.5p a year ago, leaving them with a total of 6p for the year ended March. 43 per cent less than last year.

The board must still dip into the company's reserves to finance the payment, after earnings per share plunged to 1.2p (8.6p). Pre-tax profits almost halved to £77 million (£152 million) as the recession squeezed the group's major customers, the construction and motor industries, and the board was forced to write off £37 million of reorganisation costs and bad debts.

Sir Antony Pilkington, the chairman, warned shareholders that so far the group had seen no improvement in trading conditions.

He said the board considered it "right and prudent" to reduce the dividend to "a level which is sustainable." He pointed out that it was not the first time the dividend had



Going round in circles: Sir Antony Pilkington sees no improvement

been uncovered, but that, given the depth and length of the recession, it was wise to cut back.

Shares in Pilkington dipped 4p to 124p, reflecting the market's disappointment at the size of the exceptional items, of which £25 million

were redundancy and restructuring costs.

Sir Antony said group borrowings fell to £659 million (£733 million) by the year end, reducing gearing to 56 per cent.

European glass profits fell by £60 million to £67.4 mil-

lion, with the UK responsible for £36 million of the fall. Germany, the group's biggest market in Europe, was better, due to the strong car industry and the rebuilding of eastern Germany.

Tempos, page 22

Ratners' bankers have time for Asprey

BY JON ASHWORTH

RATNERS, the troubled jewellery chain, is selling Watches of Switzerland to Asprey, the Bond Street jewellers, for about £24 million.

The widely expected move will please Ratners' bankers. They have had a rough time since Gerald Ratner's fatal "prawn sandwich" speech in April last year.

The move might even win a nod of approval from Buckingham Palace, which has a soft spot for Asprey and its stablemates, Garrard and Mappin & Webb.

Watches of Switzerland went on the market last month with a price tag of £25 million.

Asprey is paying £23.2 million in cash but Ratners retains the lease on the watch chain's head office in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. This interest along with certain tax benefits takes the total

value of the sale to about £24 million. James McAdam, who replaced Mr Ratner as chairman in January, said the sale would benefit both sides. "There was not a lot of synergy with our core jewellery businesses," he said. "It is going to the right sort of home."

Ratners has delayed reporting its results for the year to February while a strategic review of group activities is in progress. Mr McAdam said the review was continuing and was unable to say when the results will be published.

Watches of Switzerland made a profit of £887,000 before tax and exceptional items last year on sales of £21.7 million, according to details released yesterday. The previous year's profit came to £2.5 million.

Last month, Ratners gave warning that pre-tax losses last year are likely to exceed £120 million. The news placed further pressure on Mr McAdam, and led to renewed speculation that Mr

Ratner, who remains chief executive, may be forced to step down.

Asprey now appears to have the market for jewellery, watches and expensive trinkets well covered.

While Watches of Switzerland is a comparatively prestigious operation, with prices starting at about £45 and ranging up to £9,000 or so for a gold Rolex Oyster, Asprey frequently scales new heights of luxury.

Three years ago, it sold a fountain made of crystal, gold and semi-precious stones, for more than £500,000. A diamond and emerald jewellery set is currently on offer at £2.25 million.

The purchase from Ratners - for the equivalent of about 24.2 million Marks and Spencer prawn sandwiches - may be seen as poetic justice.

Ratners was in the running for Mappin & Webb before it finally fell to Asprey for £75 million in shares in August 1990.

TENDER OFFER

by John East & Partners Limited jointly on behalf of
PANTHER SECURITIES P.L.C. AND MR. A. S. PERLOFF
to acquire at 67p per share 739,184 Ordinary Shares in
ETONBROOK PROPERTIES PLC

The terms of the Tender Offer, inter alia, are as follows:

- Etonbrook shares may be tendered under the Tender Offer at a price of 67p per share. Subject to paragraph 3, below, all tenders are irrevocable. Holders of Etonbrook shares may tender all or part of their holdings.
- The Tender Offer is conditional on the receipt of tenders totalling not less than 38,306 Etonbrook shares, representing 1% of the voting rights of Etonbrook. Accordingly, if tenders totalling less than 38,306 Etonbrook shares are received, the Tender Offer will be void.
- The Tender Offer will close at 3.30 pm on Thursday, 25th June, 1992.

Forms of Tender, available together with the Tender Offer documents from the addresses given below, duly completed and together with the relevant share certificate(s) and/or other documents to be forwarded to: Significant Shareholders, 22-24 City Road, Finsbury Square, London EC2Y 2AJ, so as to arrive not later than 3.30 pm on 25th June, 1992. Cheques in respect of consideration due under the Tender Offer will be despatched by post on 25th July, 1992 or, if later, within 14 days of receipt of the relevant share certificate(s).

Panther Securities P.L.C. and Mr. Perloff do not currently hold any Etonbrook shares. However, Mithras plc and Children's Medical Charity Investment Trust plc, who are deemed to be acting in concert with Mr. Perloff, currently hold 310,000 and 100,000 Etonbrook shares respectively, representing 8.1 per cent and 2.6 per cent, respectively, of the issued share capital of Etonbrook.

John East & Partners Limited, a member of the Securities and Futures Authority and the London Stock Exchange, has approved this advertisement as an investment advertisement for the purposes of the Financial Services Act 1986.

John East & Partners Limited, 22-24 City Road, Finsbury Square, London EC2Y 2AJ
Panther Securities P.L.C., Panther House 38 Mount Pleasant London WC1X 0AP

TODAY IN BUSINESS

WAR PAINT

Kalon Group, which supplies own-label paint to do-it-yourself chains and runs Leyland trade centres, has had its £109 million hostile bid for Manders (Holdings) rejected. Page 23

TAX LOSS

Offshore tax havens are becoming less hospitable as the taxmen and police clamp down. Operators in the havens are becoming concerned. Page 25

RAY OF HOPE

THE BRITISH LAND COMPANY PLC

John Ritblat, the chairman of British Land Company, sounded a note of optimism in the battered property sector. Page 23

TOMORROW

PROFILE

Desmond Pitcher, chief executive of Littlewoods, reveals a taste for Scouse jokes and a belief that Liverpool is ace - and getting better.

SCAREMONGERS

Salesmen are playing on fears of another Maxwell scandal. Sara McConnell reports.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8465 (+0.0120)

German mark 2.8147 (-0.0071)

Exchange index 92.7 (same)

Bank of England official base rate 8.25%

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2639.5 (-17.8)

FT-SE 100 2614.1 (-22.0)

New York Dow Jones 3327.92 (-15.30)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17708.05 (-33.82)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Rate 10%
3 month Treasury 9.75%
6 month Treasury 9.50%
12 month Treasury 9.25%

CURRENCIES

London: £1 = \$1.8465
New York: £1 = \$1.8465
Paris: £1 = FF 166.63
Frankfurt: £1 = DM 1.9363
Geneva: £1 = Sfr 1.7363
Hong Kong: £1 = HK\$ 7.8063
Tokyo: £1 = ¥160.90

GOLD

London: £1 = \$1.8465
New York: £1 = \$1.8465
Paris: £1 = FF 166.63
Frankfurt: £1 = DM 1.9363
Geneva: £1 = Sfr 1.7363
Hong Kong: £1 = HK\$ 7.8063
Tokyo: £1 = ¥160.90

NORTH SEA OIL

North Sea oil prices: Brent 19.50, WTI 18.50, OPEC 17.50

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 130.4 April 1992 = 130.4
Deregulated electricity prices

Staveley faces more price control

By Rodney Hobson

THE reward for holding down the price of salt is even tighter price control, Staveley, the minerals and measuring equipment company has found.

Staveley, whose Cerebos and Saxa brands have 53 per cent of the British salt market, and ICI with 47 per cent, agreed with the trade and industry department seven years ago to restrict price increases to the rise in production costs minus 1 percentage point.

Competition between the two producers has, however, kept the price lower. Now Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, has formalised the position by imposing a new formula of 2 percentage points below production cost rises from this year.

Brian Kent, the Staveley chairman, said: "It's a bit tough. We have done nothing wrong. This will not help competition because it will be harder for any new competitor to move in."

"Our prices are lower than in Europe and our plant in Cheshire is the most efficient in the world. We cannot go on becoming more efficient for ever."

Staveley has tried to compensate by moving into other areas, such as industrial measuring.

Weigh Tronix, the American subsidiary, has had a good year but Howe Richardson, which was purchased in 1990, was already in the process of moving plants in Cologne and New Jersey. The cost has caused the first fall in pre-tax profits at Staveley for nine years.

Mr Kent says: "We think the worst is over. We have modern machinery and have moved from manual to computer control."

Staveley made pre-tax profits of £24.2 million in the year to April 4, down from £28 million. The final dividend of 5.9p makes an unchanged total of 8.2p on shares increased by a one-for-five rights issue last July. The shares gained 6p to 194p.

TEMPUS

Pilkington reflects on recession



Taking a different path: Graham Hawker, left, with John Elfed Jones of Welsh Water

COMPANIES in Pilkington's position can afford to make few enemies, so it was odd that it should risk upsetting the market with its treatment of its reorganisation costs as an "exceptional", and the inclusion of a hitherto-unmentioned £14 million bad debt in America.

That said, however, the board has surely been as honest as it can be about the short-term prospects, particularly with regard to the dividend. Shareholders are left in no doubt that the 43 per cent cut this time reduces the payment to a level that the board thinks may have to prevail for some time.

The causes of Pilkington's plight are well documented. As supplier to the two industries that are perhaps the most sensitive to economic conditions — construction and motors — it was in trouble enough from the current recession, without its coincidence with some unavoidably heavy expenditure on its float glass plant.

Float prices, 25 per cent down in America and Europe over the 18 months to September last year, have at least stabilised, but there is still no sign of any recovery in business. If anything, the evidence is that, after a brighter start to the year, orders have fallen away again in April and May. Meanwhile, by its own admission, the company has done everything it can in terms of slimming and trimming.

It would clearly be wrong at this stage to look for any improvement this year, and the group will rely again on what little fat it retains from its better years to finance part of the dividend payment. Exceptionals should not amount to more than £10 million next time, but it is still difficult to see earnings reaching 6p a share.

Capital spending will be restricted to £150 million, but there can be little hope of denting the 56 per cent net gearing figure. All of this is in the 129p share price, although the earnings multiple remains meaningless. The shares are a gamble on the timing of economic recovery, remembering always that

Pilkington responds late to changes in economic conditions — windows are among the last fittings made to new houses. At least the downside must now be limited.

Johnson Matthey

JOHNSON Matthey is guarded and cautious about prospects while world economies still limp along. But the market remains enthusiastic that the precious metals group will do really well this financial year.

With the rewards of the first two of its three-year rationalisation programme now coming through, and now that the group headcount is sharply lower and costs under control, it only needs a modest improvement in European and American economies to make JM's profits really sing.

The pre-tax outcome at £66.3 million in the year to end March, against £66.1 million, after a year in which weaker platinum and rhodium prices knocked at least

£11 million off profits, was no mean achievement. Profits were aided by a net £1.4 million boost as the product of a £6.4 million (£5.3 million) gain from sales of surplus rhodium stocks — made when that precious metal price was at peak levels — which were all but offset by redundancy/rationalisation costs totalling £5 million. Neither item is likely to appear this year.

JM's profit excitement clearly lies with catalytic systems as Europe and America increasingly fight the pollution battle, and a profit centre waiting to happen lies in JM's grasp in diesel engines. Fuel cells are another profit potential on the horizon.

If JM's management touch in 1992 on its colour and print division (where operating profits jumped by 47 per cent) is applied to the materials technology division (where profits fell 11 per cent), then there will be a stronger 1993 outcome here as well. A restructuring exercise within Europe is already in progress. Meanwhile, the division's biomedical interests, that include anti-cancer products,

made further headway. Planned investment for the years ahead include new facilities in the Far East, notably in Japan, and on the autocatalyst front £25 million of investment in South Africa, Britain and America.

Though JM's share price continues to be tickled every now and again by the guessing game about what Charter Consolidated might or might not do with its 35 per cent stake, JM's pre-tax profits this year should easily reach £70 million.

At 425p, up 10p, JM shares made on 16.9 times prospective earnings, and at a premium to the market. The shares, however, are worth holding.

Welsh Water

NOBODY could accuse John Elfed Jones, chairman of Welsh Water, of being entirely predictable. While nine of the privatised water groups moved predictably along their chosen or pre-destined paths, Welsh has been different.

First, it sprang a raid on South Wales Electricity, only to find the drawbridge closed.

Then it announced a wholesale change of top management in advance of the chairman's unexpectedly prompt retirement.

As the company showed yesterday, it remains full of surprises. Welsh Water seized the initiative from its financial regulator, who had called a 1.5 point abatement of price rises in 1992-3. Welsh declared it would forgo similar substantial rises in permitted price increases for the following two years, until Ofwat's five-year price review.

The City reacted as it has to previous surprises, knocking the share price by nearly 4 per cent. On those previous occasions, disavowal has proved temporary as the group continued to deliver the goods in profits and dividend growth.

For the year to end March, dividends rose 9.7 per cent to 21.4p, marginally less than some but not necessarily the worse for that at a politically sensitive time. Pre-tax profit rose by 7.9 per cent to £138 million, well on course, leaving earnings up 7.5 per cent at 38.4p per share.

The City's worry over price abatement centres on the accompanying acceleration in operating costs, which rose nearly 14 per cent and will go up a similar amount this year. This was, however, presumed in the original price limits, which were set generously because Welsh had leeway to catch up on some competitors, not least on efficiency. This has been tightened up and Graham Hawker, the new managing director, is casting a beady eye on diversifications: hence the exit from a street cleaning joint venture.

Welsh still faces a tough 1995 review because efficiency comparisons will be to the fore. It has, for instance, a 30 per cent leakage rate though no great shortage of water. By starting a debate on the trade-offs between price and service, the group is therefore being astute. At 450p, the shares sell at only 5.1 times earnings and yield an above-average 6.3 per cent. This seems warranted but investors should not be put off by short-term shocks.

British car chiefs to meet Heseltine

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

THE heads of Britain's four biggest car companies will meet Michael Heseltine next week to protest at the confusion over enquiries into their pricing policies.

The trade secretary faces a stiff examination by the chairmen of Ford, Rover, Vauxhall and Peugeot Talbot, angered by the contradictory findings of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the European Commission.

Although the MCC took 18 months to decide that carmakers in the United Kingdom were not pricing cars higher than those on sale in competitor nations in the EC, an enquiry for Sir Leon Brittan, the EC competition minister,

took almost the opposite view. As a result, Mr Heseltine asked the Office of Fair Trading to decide whether there was a case for further investigation. But manufacturers will tell Mr Heseltine that accusations of profiteering become increasingly difficult to prove against a background in which motor makers have suffered their worst two years of business since the war.

Sales have slumped by more than a third, falling for 29 consecutive months, and costing the industry an estimated £5 billion in lost revenue.

Ford, Britain's biggest carmaker, also ran up a record pre-tax deficit of £587 million in 1991.

Tuesday's delegation will be led by Colin Hope, president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, who is looking for better co-operation and understanding of the problems of Britain's biggest manufacturing sector from the government.

He said: "The industry is concerned that it now appears to have to deal with two different reports on the same subject which have adopted — as far as can be judged — quite different standards and reached markedly different conclusions."



Heseltine: called OFT

National Grid plans more job reductions

By Rodney Hobson

MORE job losses are on the way at the National Grid Company despite a 29 per cent rise in profits to £497.9 million on an historical cost basis in the year to end March.

The regional electricity companies that are its shareholders will split £117 million in final dividends after pocketing £38 million at the half way stage.

National Grid shed nearly a tenth of its workforce during the year, cutting staffing levels to under 5,900. Another 10 per cent are likely to go over the next two to three years, with up to 300 job losses in the current financial year.

The staff cuts took £6.6 million off the wages bill in 1991-2 but the employment of people with more skills put £3 million back on.

National Grid tariffs will be virtually unchanged this year

because of overcharging last year. Grid prices are controlled by a pricing formula agreed with the director general of electricity supply. National Grid had undercharged in the previous year but more than clawed back the deficit in 1991-2.

Talks are continuing on new price controls to be introduced in April and David Jefferies, National Grid chairman, hopes to announce agreement in about a month.

The profits increase brought a swift response from Frank Dobson, Labour's energy spokesman, who said: "These really are the ultimate monopoly profits. The National Grid Company is a monopoly owned by 12 other monopolies. No-one would guess from these profits that the electricity customers were suffering from the recession."

Oxford Instruments margins squeezed

THE shares in Oxford Instruments, the advanced instrumentation company, fell from 254p to 229p on the news of a fall in pre-tax profits from £12.07 million to £8.56 million in the year to the end of March. Turnover fell from £108.46 million to £103.33 million, but operating profits were more than halved, from £8.71 million to £3.09 million, reflecting the erosion of margins. Earnings per share fell from 16.8p to 14.7p, but the final dividend is raised from 2.8p to 2.9p, making 4.3p for the year, against 4.15p.

Peter Williams, the chairman and chief executive, said that difficult trading conditions persisted throughout the year, with the recession affecting the main markets. New orders fell 17 per cent to about £95 million, but demand appears to have stabilised at present levels. Mr Williams said that short-term indicators suggested a recovery in orders may be possible during the current financial year, although the benefits of any improvement may be delayed until the following year, because of long product lead times.

Penna falls into loss

PENNA, the holding company for Sanders & Sidney, the replacement consultancy, plunged to a pre-tax loss of £76.937 in the year to end March from a profit of £2.08 million in the previous period. The final dividend has been cut to 1p (7.8p) a share, making a total of 2p (11.5p). There is a loss per share of 1.6p compared with earnings per share of 28.7p last time. Penna was the best-performing USM stock in 1990. The shares rose 12p to 135p yesterday.

Increases at Blick

BLICK, the Swindon time-recording and communications group, lifted pre-tax profits 33 per cent to £3.66 million in the six months to the end of March. Turnover increased to £14.7 million (£10.7 million). Earnings per share rose 21 per cent to 11.52p. The interim dividend is 3p, up 15 per cent. Cash balances increased to £9.9 million (£7.4 million), helped by a £3.7 million share placing in March. Future rentals under contract rose 30 per cent to £67.5 million.

Scapa edges up

SCAPA Group, the industrial products manufacturer, lifted pre-tax profits to £44.66 million (£42.27 million) in the year to the end of March. The group benefited from a reduced interest charge of £1.78 million (£6.1 million), following last year's £55.6 million rights issue. Turnover rose to £330.2 million (£290.9 million). Earnings per share fell to 13.2p (15.2p), reflecting the increased equity base, but a final dividend of 3.84p (3.65p) lifts the total to 5.36p (5.1p).

Whitcroft warns

SHARES in Whitcroft fell from 131p to 90p after the lighting, textiles and building products manufacturer said it would cut the total dividend from 10p a share to 4p for the year to end March to reflect a sharp decline in the value of its property portfolio. A final dividend of 0.7p (5.4p) will be paid. The company said full-year profits would be at the low end of expectations and there would be an extraordinary charge against the property portfolio.

Cater Allen improves

CATER Allen, a discount house that pulled out of the gilt market last year, marginally increased after-tax profits to £8.1 million for the year to April 30. Last year's £2.7 million loss on gilt trading was eliminated but Lloyd's agency operations turned in interim losses of £473,000 (£1.9 million profit). Financial futures broking also made a small loss. The final dividend has been increased from 19p to 20p, making a 26p (25p) payout for the year.

OFT milk pact agreed

LEADING milk retailers have renewed undertakings to the Office of Fair Trading not to fix the price of products sold by milk roundsmen. They have also agreed that there will be no collusion in tendering for the supply of milk. The retailers are Clifford Foods, CWS, Co-operative Retail Services, Dale Farm Dairy Group, Healds Dairies, Unigate Dairies and William Stevenson. The new undertakings follow changes of ownership of milk retailers and wholesalers.

Borrowing costs slow Salvesen

By Jon Ashworth

A FIVEFOLD rise in interest charges has taken the shine off profits at Christian Salvesen, the distribution, manufacturing and specialist hire company.

Profits before tax in the year to end-March marked time at £67.2 million (£66.6 million) as interest charges soared to £6.5 million (£1.2 million). Borrowings rose sharply on the back of a £100 million capital investment programme.

Turnover rose to £484.3 million (£422.7 million), while a 4.1p final dividend (3.85p) makes 7p payout (6.6p) for the year. An extraordinary charge of £19.9 million has been made relating to the withdrawal from distribution for manufacturers in Germany.

Chris Masters, chief executive, said the new year had started reasonably well despite depressed economic conditions. Christian Salvesen is best known in the UK as a distributor of frozen and fresh food for retailers such as J Sainsbury and Marks and Spencer. Salvesen freezes about a third of the UK's green vegetables. The company has won a two-year contract to distribute Häagen-Dazs ice cream and a contract with Agfa-Gevaert to distribute electronic and photographic goods.

Salvesen Brick was affected by lower prices. The specialist hire division increased trading profit to £27 million (£22.3 million) due to the strength of the Aggreko power generator operation. Aggreko makes and hires out generators in Europe, America and the Far East and is set for strong growth this year.

BBA buys Butler Aviation

By Philip Pangalos

BBA, the automotive and aviation group, is expanding its corporate aircraft terminals and facilities in America by acquiring Butler Aviation International for at least \$62.5 million in shares and cash.

The purchase of Butler, which is based in Dallas, Texas, is being made by Page Avjet Airport Services, BBA's American subsidiary. Under the terms of the deal, Butler Aviation, Butler's parent, will receive a 32 per cent shareholding in Page as well as \$20 million in cash.

The activities of Page and Butler are similar, with the two operations highly complementary. The acquisition will increase Page's American operations from 20 in 18 airports to 42 in 38 airports.

On a pro-forma basis, the enlarged group would have had sales of about \$260 million in the year to December 31. BBA expects the deal to give the enlarged company "substantial operational and financial synergies".

John White, BBA's managing director, said: "The Butler acquisition demonstrates the planned expansion of our airport services in the United States and it makes us the industry leader in this market. It is in line with our strategy to build and balance BBA's businesses both geographically and by sector."

Page made a pre-tax profit of \$10.9 million in the year to December 31. Butler made a taxable profit of \$2.8 million in the same period, on sales of \$101 million and net assets of \$37.4 million. BBA expects substantial cost savings, and a positive impact by the acquisition on future earnings.

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS



GOVERNMENT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

The Government of the Cayman Islands has a vacancy for the position of:

AUDITOR GENERAL

The Cayman Islands are a British Crown colony in the West Indies located 450 miles south of Miami, Florida. A successful offshore financial centre and popular tourist destination with a population of 28,000, they enjoy one of the highest living standards in the Caribbean.

The duties and powers of the Auditor General are prescribed in the Public Finance and Audit Law. In particular it is the duty of the Auditor General to examine, enquire into and audit the accounts of the Accountant General and of other accounting officers in respect of public monies, stamps, securities, stores and any other public property.

The Auditor General, who is head of the Cayman Islands Audit Office, is directly responsible to the Governor for the auditing of all Government accounts.

Applicants should hold a relevant professional qualification and should have at least 10 years experience, including a period at senior administration level.

Salary will be C\$ 59,076 pr annum tax free (C\$ = US\$ 1.20). Benefits include air passages, medical care and a Contracted Officers Supplement of 15% of salary paid monthly. Appointment will be on a two year contract.

Application forms, together with recruitment notes, are available from:

The Cayman Islands Government Office
Trevor House
100 Brompton Road
London SW3 1EX

Telephone: 071 823 7613

Completed application form with a curriculum vitae should be returned by 3 July 1992.

Manders paints out £109m bid by Kalon

BY MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

A £109 million paint war has broken out, after Kalon Group, which supplies own-label paint to the big do-it-yourself chains and runs 63 Leyland trade centres, had a hostile bid for Manders (Holdings) thrown out.

Kalon, the former Leyland Paint group based in Yorkshire, in which the Silver family recently relinquished control, has offered eight of its own shares for every three Manders shares, in a move that would almost double the size of the group, but was promptly rebuffed by the Manders board.

The offer, which valued each Manders share at 295p at the time it was made, was described as "unsolicited and hostile" by Manders. It "undervalues the company and is

wholly unacceptable," Manders added. Shareholders were advised to take no action until they had heard further from their board.

Mike Hennessy, the Kalon group managing director installed by former chairman Leslie Silver in 1988, says that a mix of Kalon's and Manders' paints would lift the group's share of the British paint market from 16 to 23 per cent, giving it more muscle in its battle with the big players like Dulux and Crown.

He is also keen on Manders' links business but would not expect to retain Manders' retail property investment at Wolverhampton, independently valued at £57.5 million last year. Its sale would clearly significantly reduce Kalon's net outlay.

Mr Hennessy said Manders' combination of activities had been "unsuccessful" and that its shareholders had suffered. "Its strategy has led to burgeoning borrowings, high gearing, static profitability and a declining return on capital," he claimed. Manders had borrowings of £33.3 million at the end of 1991, Kalon says.

The 295p bid price represents a 24 per cent premium over Wednesday's closing price of 237p, and is 22.7 times Manders' 1991 earnings per share of 13p. On the stock market, Manders shares closed at 291p, up 54p on the day. Kalon's shares were 24p lower at 108p.

Mr Hennessy said that full acceptance of the offer would involve the issue of 98.4 million Kalon shares.

Besides the increase in its share of the paint market, a successful bid would help accelerate the nationwide development of the Leyland centres, and lead to a merger of the two companies' industrial coatings businesses.

Mr Hennessy forecast that integration of the two groups would mean a 20 per cent reduction in the workforce.



Heading south? Johnson Matthey, the precious metals technology group, might consider listing its shares on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. David Davies, above, the chairman, said JM already has strong business connections with

South Africa, and the Johannesburg investment community has long shown an interest in JM's fortunes. JM achieved pre-tax profits of £66.3 million (£66.1 million) in the year to the end of March. Mr Davies said that "economic growth

and improved metal prices will certainly be needed if we are to show a significant increase in company profits in the coming year". JM is raising its final dividend to 6.65p (6.25p) making 9.65p (9.25p) for the year. *Tempus, page 22*

Ritblat raises British Land dividend

BY MARTIN WALLER

JOHN Ritblat's British Land has sounded a note of optimism in the battered property sector with a 10 per cent dividend rise, a fall of just 18 per cent in net assets per share and a stated belief that the sector might be over the worst of the recession.

Mr Ritblat's company has been active in buying properties throughout the past three years, with purchases totalling £900 million. Only last month, British Land agreed to buy the final minority holding in the freeholds of 1, 2 and 3 Finsbury Avenue in the City of London, a development worth more than £200 million.

Final results from British Land show that pre-tax profits increased from £31 million to £33.3 million in the year to March. The company's net assets per share were down from 401p to 329p, and a final dividend of 4.28p raises the total from 5.75p to 6.35p.

The figures, and Mr Ritblat's optimism, sent British Land shares 11p ahead to 215p, against the trend of a falling stock market.

"For the first time since 1989 we think we have now seen the worst," he said. "Markets may be flat and difficult, but we believe that they will respond to a selectively improving trend."

British Land has written down book values by 60 per cent over three years in the City of London, the worst-affected area of its portfolio, and now considers to have taken values down as far as is needed to reflect the price its developments could fetch on the open market.

"At some stage, and I expect it will be sooner rather than later, we think we shall get improvements in rental values," Mr Ritblat said. "There are quite strong indications that the market is better than it was, retail in particular."

Over the past three years, as the unprecedented property recession has run its course, British Land has reshaped its portfolio to reduce the office proportion by 20 percentage points to 54 per cent, while the retail element has risen from 15 per cent to 38 per cent.

During the same period the company has absorbed £500 million of falls in value, £275 million in the City and £128 million in the rest of London.

The cost of purchases has, however, left its mark, with a rise in interest costs of £19 million to £79.1 million and an increase in gearing from 72 per cent to 98 per cent.

The group's net rents rose from £79.8 million to £102.7 million, of which 37 per cent rises automatically under the terms of the leases. Mr Ritblat said this source of income ensured a minimum increase of £35 million a year on total rents, mostly arising over the next ten years. The first such increase starts next year.

Mr Ritblat has bought about 500,000 British Land shares on his own account, much of the buying coming shortly after the election.

Debt rating reduced at Barclays

STANDARD & Poor's, the debt rating agency, has cut its ratings on Britain's largest banks after a review of the financial industry showed the downturn in profits will be longer and deeper than previously feared (Neil Bennett writes).

The agency has cut the rating of Barclays, Britain's largest bank, from AA+ to AA, the second reduction in less than 18 months. At the start of last year Barclays held an AAA rating, S&P's highest category, but has fallen because of bad debts and worries over its capital strength. Barclays was downgraded on involvement with stricken borrowers, including Olympia & York, Mountleigh, and Heron.

S&P has also placed the AA+ rating of National Westminster, Barclays' main rival, on creditwatch, and is likely to downgrade it soon. NatWest has been involved in fewer large company problems but is suffering a flow of bad debts from small businesses.

The agency also put the Royal Bank of Scotland's AA+ rating on a negative outlook since the bank has been hit by bad debts in its English operations. The Bank of Scotland, its main rival, is unchanged.

S&P's review suggests the current recession has been far more damaging to British banks than any previous downturn since the war, and implies bad debt provisions could stay unacceptably high into the middle of the decade.

Barclays said it was well placed to take advantage of the recovery when it comes, and remains one of the best capitalised banks in the world.

B&E cuts 720 jobs

Calls for the government to guide the defence industry's restructuring and help redundant workers gathered pace after British Aerospace confirmed the loss of 720 jobs in its Dynamics business. The MSF technical union asked for Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, to launch an enquiry into the future of the aerospace industry.

Tim Webb, national officer of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance union, said: "The UK aerospace sector has now self-destructed to the point where it is questionable whether it can survive as a major industry."

The company is to shed 450 jobs in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, 150 at Luton, Lancashire, and 120 at Bristol.

Taubman reduces Sotheby's stake

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

ALFRED Taubman, Sotheby's chairman and largest shareholder, is selling more than a third of his shares in the world's largest auction house as part of a 10 million share sale. Mr Taubman will sell 8 million of his 21.9 million B shares, expected to raise almost £60 million.

Max Fisher, Sotheby's vice-chairman who owns his shares in conjunction with Martine, the American hotel chain, will sell 2 million B shares. While Sotheby's B shares carry ten votes each, those for sale will be converted into A shares with one vote each.

The sale will leave Mr Taubman with nearly 14 million B shares, preserving his control of the auctioneer.

Mr Taubman and Mr Fisher are among America's

wealthiest businessmen but their fortunes are tied to two of the most troubled sectors of the economy, commercial property and the oil business.

As spokesman for the auction house said that none of the proceeds from the sale would go to Sotheby's, which has seen harsh conditions in the art market over the past two years. Sotheby's shares were halved in New York and London late yesterday at \$13.25. In the past year they traded between \$15.625 and \$9.625 on Wall Street.

The shares peaked at \$37 three years ago on heavy American institutional buying which anticipated a rocketing profits performance. At that time, Mr Taubman's fortune was estimated at \$2 billion. It dropped to \$600 million last year.

Price rise limited at Welsh Water

WELSH Water has decided to raise its charges by 1.5 per cent less than it is entitled to in each of the years running up to the new price regime, due in 1995. Rises will be 5 per cent in real terms, instead of the 6.5 per cent originally agreed with the government before privatisation (Graham Seargeant writes).

John Elfed Jones, the chairman, has also decided to give the £30,000 he receives as non-executive director of HTV, the television contractor, to Welsh Water. Along with other executive directors, Mr Elfed will also receive a reduced performance bonus because Welsh Water did not reach the exceptional performance level set by non-executive directors to earn the full bonus.

As a result, Mr Elfed Jones' gross pay fell from £143,000 in 1990-1, including a £35,000 bonus, to £141,000.

The decision to forgo some future price increases up to 1995 is the first to be announced among the privatised water groups. It continues the one-year abatement of charge limits for 1992-3, itself one of the highest volunteered by nine of the privatised groups in response to a request last autumn from Ian Byatt, the director general of water services.

Graham Hawker, the managing director, said: "This is the first step in establishing ourselves as the organisation closest to its customers. It shows we are not driven by the regulator." Welsh Water said it increased investment in its utility business by 18 per cent to £139 million in the year to end March.

Mr Elfed Jones said he was calling for a debate with customers on whether they would prefer to see a slowdown in the rate of improvements in return for lower water bills. Mr Hawker said the trade-off could involve plans for non-statutory spending on renewing the group's underground pipes and sewers. Welsh has one of the highest leakage rates in the country but is still not short of water resources.

Pre-tax profits rose by 7.9 per cent to £138.2 million on group turnover up by 16.7 per cent to £342 million. The dividend is to rise by 9.7 per cent to 21.4p per share. Welsh Water shares dropped 17p to 460p on the price announcement.

Tempus, page 22

Canary Wharf's tenants to meet

BY ANGELA MACKAY

CANARY Wharf's key tenants will meet again early next week to discuss whether the project's administrator is honouring its obligations as landlord. The committee of "big name" corporate tenants, including Ogilvy & Mather, Peat Marwick and The Daily Telegraph, are looking ahead to June 25 — the date of their first rent payment since the Olympia & York project went into administration last month.

Other prospective tenants, such as Texaco and American Express, will next week be reviewing their plans to move into the £1.5 billion development, particularly since Lehner McGovern International, the site manager to the project in London's Docklands, said yesterday it was going to cancel its contract with the development, which could stop all fitting-out work from being completed.

Both Texaco and American

Express said they still planned to move in as scheduled during the next three months.

Ernst & Young, the administrator, did not seem unduly concerned by the threat because unless Lehner McGovern, part of the P&O group, cancelled the contract, the company may have to waive its legal claim for payment from Canary Wharf. So far, like most trade creditors, Lehner McGovern has not been paid, but the administrator said that work would continue, albeit at tenants' own cost.

The administrator has also appointed Hillier Parker as the joint property consultant on the project. Hillier Parker will work with Savills, the property agent appointed on Monday.

Meetings with the agents to various government departments committed to relocating in Docklands have been held during the past two days.

Sealink is scolded for being a bit too swell

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission yesterday tried to smooth troubled waters in North Wales by telling Sealink it should rearrange its new summer sailing schedule from Holyhead after a complaint from B&I, the rival ferry line.

B&I has a berth at the mouth of the Holyhead harbour, and whenever a Sealink vessel sails past, B&I ships have to disconnect their loading ramps because of the danger from the swell caused by the passing ship.

As Sealink is also the port authority in Holyhead, it retains the best berth, which is deeper in the harbour, for its own ferries and B&I has difficulty obtaining access to this berth at the sailing times that it would like.

Last October, Sealink told B&I that it would adopt a new timetable that involved two Sealink vessels sailing past the B&I ship while it was loading.

B&I immediately complained to the European Commission, claiming that Sealink was disrupting its services and giving it insufficient turn-around times.

The European Commission yesterday told Sealink that it must suspend its new schedule until a final decision on the case is made. Sealink has one

month to revert to its old timetable, in which only one Sealink sailing disrupted B&I's loading schedule.

The European Commission "considers that a company which both owns and uses an essential facility, in this case a port, should not grant its competitors access on terms less favourable than those which it gives its own services," the Brussels-based commission said in a statement.

Smith New Court rides high on buoyant equity markets

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

PROFITS at Smith New Court, the stockbroker, recovered by 142 per cent to £18.4 million in the year to April 30 because of a series of lucrative bought deals and the sharp rise in equity markets after the general election.

The broker made the gain despite an exceptional item of £1.9 million on the closure of its broking operation in Australia and losses in Japan due to a slump in turnover. The final dividend is being increased to 3p, making 4.5p for the year, a rise of 28 per cent.

During the year, Smith acted as broker to the flotation of Mirror Group Newspapers, which is now the subject of an enquiry by the trade and industry department. Smith feels it will be vindicated.

Otherwise, Smith's most notable transaction in the past year was its £209 million acquisition of a 2.8 per cent stake in ICI for Hanson. Michael Marks, the chief executive, insisted, however, that bought deals accounted for only a tenth of the group's revenue and masked the improvement in Smith's stockbroking and trading business.

Sir Michael Richardson, the chairman, said the results proved the company had grown from being a jobber in 1986 into a full service stockbroker. Half of the group's gross revenue now comes from

commission and fees, rather than trading. The firm has also built a base of 110 large corporate clients, including Ladbroke, Northern Foods and Scottish Hydro. About 45 per cent of revenues come from non-UK equities.

"We have the bricks of a business," Mr Marks said. "Our task in the next few years is to build a wall." Smith hopes to bring its operations in London, New York and

Asia closer together. The figures did not include a £10.7 million award from Citibank, which was ordered to pay the money last March, but has since appealed. Sir Michael said the bank would include the figures once the case was settled. During the year, Smith achieved a return on equity of nearly 20 per cent, more than two and a half times higher than the previous year.



Stock rising: Michael Marks, Smith's chief executive

DTI gives all-clear to Lonrho's Libyan hotel deal

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

LONRHO'S £177.5 million hotel deal with the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company that was personally negotiated by Tiny Rowland, Lonrho's chief executive, has been formally cleared by the department of trade and industry.

On March 26, Lonrho announced that the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company had subscribed £177.5 million each for a one third stake in Metropole Hotels (Holdings), a wholly owned Lonrho company and owner of a chain of British hotels.

The announcement immediately sparked off criticism of Lonrho's board for what was viewed as an insensitive transaction, and feared that the group would face international repercussions, notably

from Americans. Lonrho's connection with Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, at a time of strained international relations, and just as the United Nations was debating sanctions because of the Lockerbie affair, aggravated an already fragile investment climate.

Lonrho's shares, which had been falling in the after-shock of lower 1991 profits and a cut dividend, came under further selling pressure and slumped to a seven-year low of 85p on March 31.

In July 1991, Lonrho shares traded at 265p. Last night, Lonrho shares — now no longer a constituent of the FT SE 100 index — stood at 89p, giving the group a market capitalisation of £565.9

million. Another consequence of the Libyan hotel connection was that LBS Phillips & Drew, resigned as Lonrho's joint stock broker.

Lonrho said the hotel deal that led to the cash injection would reduce debts of Metropole.

It added that although the Metropole chain would cease to be wholly owned, "ownership and control still ultimately rests in Lonrho", and its business would continue to be run by its directors and employees in precisely the same way.

Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, said, that following a recommendation from the Office of Fair Trading, he had decided not to refer the purchase to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The shorthand

of the trade and industry's department's speak is that the deal, per se, presents no competition problems.

The Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company will appoint two directors to the Metropole's board of eight.

Paul Spicer, a deputy chairman of Lonrho, said he would not have expected Mr Heseltine, the trade secretary, to have said otherwise in clearing the deal.

Since January, Mr Spicer added, Lonrho had realised or had contracted to receive £500 million from asset sales in line with its stated intention of reducing debt.

Interim results for the period that ended March are due by the end of June.

James Cropper PLC

The following are the unaudited preliminary figures for the year ended 28th March, 1992:

Group Profit and Loss Account	1992 £'000	1991 £'000
Turnover	40,297	39,374
Profit before exceptional item and taxation	1,191	1,476
Exceptional item	(131)	—
Profit before taxation	1,060	1,476
Taxation	350	250
Profit attributable to shareholders	710	1,226
Dividend:		
Interim — 0.975p (1991 0.975p)	80	80
Proposed Final — 2.025p (1991 1.925p)	187	158
Amount set aside to reserves	483	988
Earnings per share of 25p	8.6p	15.0p

The Company has traded profitably through a year affected by the longest recession for many years. However, the high financing costs of the new paper machine installed last year and an increase in bad debts have led to a decline in the pre-tax profits compared to last year.

The exceptional item relates to the costs of reorganisation of the business.

The increased tax charge includes a provision for deferred tax to cover future reversals of capital allowances due to the completion of a major capital expenditure programme. Mainstream corporation tax payable for the year will however be minimal.

In view of the difficult trading conditions prevailing throughout the paper industry a reasonable start has been made to the current year in the group.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Burnside Mills, Kendal, on Thursday the 30th July 1992 at 10.30 a.m.

THE MISSIONS TO SEAMEN

There is a growing concern that a number of seamen are being exploited by unscrupulous agents. The following are the names of the agents who have been identified as being involved in this exploitation:

1. The Commission of the Seamen's Union, which is a trade union, has been identified as being involved in this exploitation.
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These agents are known to have been involved in the exploitation of seamen in the following ways:

1. They have been involved in the recruitment of seamen to ships.
2. They have been involved in the payment of wages to seamen.
3. They have been involved in the payment of expenses to seamen.

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MARKETS
ships slip
trading

Lessons from the MFI buy-out

In the not so distant days when there was a gleam in every merchant banker's eye anticipating the big deal he might arrange tomorrow, management buy-outs were all the rage. Then, they symbolised the enthusiasm for ever more creative variants of financial engineering through which the bankers and the deal-fixers hoped to cream off substantial fees and arrange sizable blocks of lending. Like most fashions in the financial world, the dream and the reality were poles apart.

Few large deals, apart from MFI, the furniture retailer, stayed the course from original buyout through to restructuring and refloating. During the expensive failures of ill-conceived ventures such as Magnet and Lowndes Queensway, even MFI looked headed for trouble at times as the recession and soaring interest rates made nonsense of the cash flows forecast by the financial engineers. But the continuing support of bankers and other lenders, tough rationalisation measures and tight financial controls have brought MFI through to within a few weeks of the final goal, a stock market float which will pay off the original lenders and recapitalise the group along more conventional lines.

Fortunately, the more extreme variants of the highly leveraged transaction, or HLT, in the jargon of the banking world, did not proliferate here to the extent they did in America. For a period there, not even the very largest of companies were safe from junk-bond financiers eager to squabble over the carcass just to do a deal. Even in Britain, risky debt to equity ratios of four-to-one were not unusual.

MFI is a reminder first that LBOs can work even in the most adverse conditions and second that, treated conservatively, such financing techniques have a role to play in the continual process through which business restructures itself. The lessons of the late eighties have been well learned. These days deals are typically modest in scale and debt to equity matched more or less evenly. MFI, if its flotation is completed successfully, may have the added benefit of encouraging a greater supply of currently scarce equity capital for HLTs. If so, the hapless staff of Mirror Group Newspapers will surely say "amen" to that.

Dropping anchor

German doubts over the Maastricht treaty are burgeoning, though in a way that might allay the fear of German dominance in Denmark. More than 60 leading German economists have claimed in a caustic paper that monetary union, as set out in the treaty, was hasty, ill-considered and would endanger monetary stability and economic integration. The EC as a whole could only operate a single currency on the Maastricht timetable with higher inflation and economic imbalances or massive transfers to the weaker nations through the EC budget.

The colour of this sentiment was revealed in an interview yesterday by Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank's deputy president. He argued that the Danish vote had not blocked the road to economic integration, but could divert it back onto a path of older virtues, exemplified by the consequent rise in the mark on the foreign exchanges. The mark, noted Herr Tietmeyer, had resumed its rightful function as Europe's anchor currency after the upstart challenges made in response to Germany's unsuitably high interest rates. He might have empathised with Yegor Gaidar, the Russian deputy prime minister, who was laying down the law more brutally on the new rouble zone in the former Soviet Union. Russia, he said, would rule it with an iron fist.

International tax havens become less hospitable for the pirates

Some of the world's biggest financial centres are offshore. But they are under increasing pressure from taxmen and the police, says Peter Garfield

Financial professionals responsible for handling half the world's money will gather in New York on Monday for their annual offshore funds conference. As part of the official agenda, delegates from as far afield as the Channel Islands, Luxembourg, Bermuda and Cayman will debate the latest developments in fund structure, taxation and regulation.

As with all conferences, there is a hidden agenda too. The real problems confronting offshore centres will not be addressed in the formal sessions but over cocktails and discreet supper gatherings. What is being done to weed out terrorist and drug-related money from offshore bank accounts? Does a proposed 30 per cent corporation tax on companies in EC member states signal the beginning of the end of Europe's offshore financial centres? To what extent should offshore centres co-operate with tax authorities from other countries?

What, though, is meant by an offshore centre? It is a loose term used to denote financial centres with three characteristics. First, they specialise in doing business with non-resident clients. Second, they offer a nil or low tax regime. (The French term is *paradis fiscal* — tax heaven as opposed to tax haven.) Finally, they are lightly regulated, which might or might not be the same thing as inadequately regulated.

Using these tests, there are at least 20 offshore centres dotted around the globe. Some, like Jersey, the Isle of Man, Madeira and the Bahamas, are genuinely offshore. Others, such as Dublin and Gibraltar, are part of a land mass, while centres in Andorra, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg are landlocked. Then there are aspiring centres, determined to jump on what they see as a lucrative bandwagon. These include Alderney, Cyprus, Malta, the Canary Islands, Mauritius and Labuan, in Malaysia.

The business is certainly lucrative. Offshore centres are not always terribly revealing in the information they release but some reliable figures are available to indicate their financial muscle. Bank deposits in Jersey total more than £45 billion, more than half of it in foreign currencies, while tiny neighbouring Guernsey can boast deposits of almost £18 billion. To put the Channel Islands total bank deposits of £63 billion in perspective, sterling current and de-

posit accounts with the National Westminster Bank in the UK total slightly less than £53 billion. Even Gibraltar, where the financial sector has not had the best press in recent years, now has 31 banks handling a total of almost £2 billion in deposits, a tenfold increase since 1984.

On the other side of the Atlantic, Grand Cayman's 538 banks hold a staggering total of \$432 billion in deposits. That places the island among the world's biggest ten financial centres, along with London, New York and Tokyo.

Such breathtaking figures are not confined to banking. Bermuda plays host to more than half the world's 2,500 captive insurance companies, while Luxembourg's mutual funds control £70 billion of investors' money. That is rather more than the entire UK unit trust industry.

The news is not all good in the offshore centres. Tax, police and regulatory authorities the world over still take a lot of convincing that they are not just sunny places for shady people. Their fears are often well founded. In 1990-1, more than 300 banks in the Caribbean island of Montserrat were forcibly closed after investigations by Scotland Yard's Fraud Squad, which revealed widespread money laundering and fraud. One Montserrat bank even had a \$5 million certificate of deposit six weeks after its licence had been revoked.

Similar problems have been encountered in Grenada, where phoney banks are still being unearthed, even though 200 have been shut down.

The North American Securities Administrators Association refers to centres such as Montserrat and the Pacific micro-states of Nauru, Vanuatu, Tonga and the Marshall and Northern Mariana Islands as the "friendly islands of fraud" and "centres of prostitute banking", because they allow swindlers to set up banks, sometimes for as little as \$7,500.

The NASAA notes the case of David Hunt, a US-based financial planner who was sentenced to serve ten years in prison after defrauding at least 400 investors of \$7 million. Hunt's First Colonial Banking Ltd, located in the Marshall Islands, promised a return of 30 to 40 per cent a year through certificates of deposit, precious metals and an arbitrage trading scheme. It turned out that the only First Colonial bank "office" located on the island was a



Bail out: the Isle of Man's compensation scheme is rare

petrol station attendant who was paid to pick up Hunt's mail (consisting of cheques from investors) at a local post office and remit them to him in the United States.

The better regulated offshore centres are rightly anxious not to be tarred with the same brush. Jersey, Guernsey, the Isle of Man and Bermuda all have designated territory status for investment products under the United Kingdom's Financial Services Act. This implies that their own fund regulation is as good as the UK's, including a compensation scheme. The Isle of Man is

unusual among offshore centres in having a compensation scheme for bank deposits. Depositors in the failed BCCI will be able to claim up to £15,000 compensation in a bail-out that will cost the island's remaining banks and building societies £750,000 each in levies. Depositors in the Gibraltar branch of BCCI are not so lucky. There is no compensation scheme on the Rock.

Several centres have also introduced specific legislation in an attempt to counter money laundering. This is a particular problem for centres such as Turks & Caicos and

the Bahamas, which are on the direct flight path from Colombia to Miami. Turks & Caicos, a British dependent territory, is party to a treaty between America and the UK on mutual assistance in criminal matters that allows disclosure of information relating to drug-related offences. Cayman has similar arrangements.

Caribbean centres are not alone in being blighted by drugs money. Jersey has introduced a drug trafficking offences law and several centres have developed codes of practice in an attempt to prevent the laundering of money through their banking, insurance and investment sectors. A new customer trying to deposit more than \$10,000 in cash in any reputable offshore centre will not reach the airport before being grilled by the local police.

Offshore life assurance companies tell their staff to be wary of requests for large single-premium contracts. Bad money is the scourge of all offshore centres and all suspicions die hard. Despite tighter regulation, offshore centres find it hard to shake off images of medalion-sporting men in white suits and crocodile skin shoes carrying suitcases full of \$100 bills.

That is a problem for all offshore centres. They have their individual problems too. The biggest threat hanging over the European centres — Dublin, Gibraltar, Luxembourg and Madeira — is the recommendation by a committee of the European Commission that a mandatory 30 per cent withholding tax should be imposed on the profits, retained or distributed, of all companies. Such an absurd move would drive money away to places such as Bermuda, Cayman and the Netherlands' Antilles, or to the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, which are outside the Community.

The normally calm and single-minded approach to money-making in Jersey was shattered last month when the island's second most senior judge, who doubled as deputy speaker of the States of Jersey, was sacked and made a point of not going quietly. The financial sector was anxious to assure the outside world that there was no threat to political stability but the possibility of a change in the constitutional link with the UK might undermine investor confidence.

The world's offshore centres will doubtless continue to enjoy their successes and suffer their occasional setbacks. What is certain is that together they represent a potent, but largely anonymous, force in global finance. The continuing worry for tax and police authorities is that they are largely off limits for investigation, although they are engaged in a giant game of financial chess in which many moves have no obvious beginning and no identifiable end.

The writer is editor of Offshore Alert.

'Grand Cayman's 538 banks hold \$432 billion in deposits, putting it in the same league as New York, London and Tokyo'

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Hodkinson's broad view

JIM Hodkinson, the deputy chairman and chief executive of DIY group B&Q, who yesterday revealed that he would be moving on to Kingfisher's central staff as its overseas development director — handing over the B&Q reins to Alan Smith, hitherto with Superdrug, is nearing the end of a 20-year association with the company. Hodkinson, 48, has long stated a desire to retire at 50 and although in his new guise he will be seeking expansion opportunities for B&Q in Europe and elsewhere — "I think there are lots of opportunities in South Africa," he says — he admits that this move is primarily a means of ensuring a smooth two-year transfer of the B&Q controls. "I've been with the business for 20 years, opened its fourth shop in Bournemouth, and I do not want to stay for another ten years doing the same thing," Hodkinson, a self-confessed workaholic and an irascible entrepreneur, intends to spend his so-called retirement years developing other businesses. In partnership with John Ashcroft, one-time chairman of Coleridge, he already owns a chain of nine shops which sell a range of outdoor clothing under the name of Survival and has plans to open three more this year. "We've also got a mail order business and a trade business, which supplies the Brunel armed forces."

IF THE royal press pack members want a real story they should perhaps contact US rating agency Standard & Poor's. S&P is currently marketing a new private place-



ment manual, and the contact is one Sarah Ferguson in New York. According to an insider, the lady in question is a blonde rather than a redhead. She does, however, now answer to the name of "duchess"....

Bankruptcy aim

DIETER Abt, the Swiss businessman who once provided tea and cucumber sandwiches for the Queen and her guests at royal garden parties in his capacity as chairman of catering firm Town & Country, has told the City Diary that he is about to file for personal bankruptcy in the UK. Town & Country, now owned by Forte, went into receivership in January with debts of more than £10 million and Allied Lyons, which sold the firm to Abt in May 1990, has now sued him personally for non-payment of £3 million of the £5 million purchase price. Abt is also being sued by creditors led by Lloyds Bank. Abt, who held a lavish 40th birthday party at the Natural History Museum last July, says he has been "overwhelmed" by support from "friends in the establishment". He denies, however, that these supporters include

Prince Edward, rumoured to be a close friend. The Prince is, he explains, patron of the National Youth Theatre whose board Abt sits on. "That is the extent of our contact," Abt says. Buckingham Palace confirmed that Town & Country will cater for its garden parties next month.

Touching base

A YEAR after his last failed bid for Devenish, Boddington chairman Dennis Cassidy is being tipped to bid again on June 18, but before he does he should cast an eye over the track record of old adversary John Reynolds. Reynolds, 43, a former Exel editor, joined PR consultancy Shandwick four years ago and following TI's successful takeover bid for Dowty this week has just completed an unbroken run of five successful bid campaigns — three offers and two defences. Given that impressive record — the defence of Higgs & Hill against J Lovell, and victorious bids by the Coal Board pension fund for Globe and by Burmah Oil for Fosco — tongues are now wagging about Reynolds' own future. There is talk that he might break away from Shandwick and set up on his own, with the catchy sounding name of JPR PR or mentioned. Reynolds, however, laughs off any such suggestions. At the moment he says, all he wants to do is to touch base with his wife and their two children, Tom, four, and Archie, two, before Boddington reappears on the take-over horizon. "I'm really looking forward to reintroducing myself to them," Reynolds says.

CAROL LEONARD

Lloyd's must cut costs by 20% now

From Mr G.E. Knight

Sir, As a name at Lloyd's and one who has been involved in the market for many years I, personally, approve the decision announced on June 4th to increase the Lloyd's Central Fund.

However, I would have been a great deal happier if there had also been a statement about a determination to reduce the bloated costs of the Lloyd's bureaucracy.

In all the businesses in which I have been involved over the years one of the first things to be tackled in times of stress has been that of administrative costs.

Lloyd's appears to me to have been flagrantly negligent in this regard over the years and, with a diminishing membership, the rest of us will each be carrying higher costs.

Leaving aside the ludicrous

new building, which can now be seen to be entirely unnecessary, do we really need the massive operation in Chatham, the high style of committee life and the large staff numbers which normally attend any Lloyd's overseas trip (all travelling at the front end)?

How about contracting out many of the routine functions, coming back on the fire, and bringing the regulation of the market under the aegis of the Financial Services Act?

There has to be a room for at least a cut of 20 per cent in administrative costs and the need for this to be tackled resolutely is long overdue.

Have a look at what Lord King and his team has achieved at British Airways.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY KNIGHT,
33 Smith Terrace,
SW3.

Wellcome warm towards private investors

From the Deputy Chairman, Robert Fleming & Co Limited

Sir, Far from wishing to discourage private investors from participating in the Wellcome plc share offer, as suggested by the chief executive of ProShare (UK) Ltd (Business Letters, June 11) all parties involved in the sale are committed to achieving a strong level of response from the retail market.

A share information line is already open, and private investors are able to register to apply now for an information pack and a prospectus when published. A certain number of shares will be reserved for early applicants in the UK public offer.

The minimum investment will be £1,000, with the clear objective of encouraging the private investor to apply for shares. The procedure for applying at the strike price has

been made as simple as possible.

However, the vendor of the Wellcome shares is a charitable trust which exists to make grants for medical research. Due to its status it is unable to offer discounts or other "perks". For every £1 million given away, the amount available for medical research falls by around £35,000 per annum.

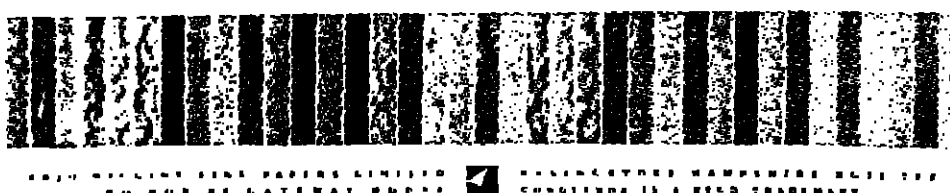
Yours faithfully,
LAWRENCE BANKS,
Deputy Chairman,
Robert Fleming & Co Limited,
25 Copthall Avenue,
EC2.

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

Next time,
write
on something
important.

Whatever
you're
writing on,
make sure you
write on
Conqueror.

conqueror



[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FTSE 100	Jun 92	2636.0	2942.0	2616.0	2623.0	12069
Previous open interest: 41869	Sep 92	2672.0	2677.5	2655.5	2660.0	1833
Three Month Sterling	Jun 92	89.96	90.00	89.97	90.00	4281
Previous open interest: 21743	Sep 92	90.21	90.24	90.17	90.23	1811
Three Mth Eurodollar	Jun 92	96.00	96.00	95.93	95.99	2700
Previous open interest: 41094	Sep 92	95.74	95.77	95.69	95.77	2085
Three Mth Euro DM	Jun 92	90.26	90.28	90.25	90.27	3501
Previous open interest: 296124	Sep 92	90.53	90.58	90.50	90.54	14914
US Treasury Bond	Jun 92	100.05	100.18	100.05	100.18	97
Previous open interest: 2040	Sep 92	99.94	99.99	99.93	99.97	1366
Long Gilt	Jun 92	97.14	97.17	97.13	97.27	1211
Previous open interest: 67618	Sep 92	97.28	97.32	97.17	97.33	1361
Japanese Govt Bond	Jun 92	101.90	102.00	101.90	102.00	925
	Dec 92				101.60	0
German Govt Bond	Sep 92	88.29	88.41	88.37	88.38	44779
Previous open interest: 100297	Dec 92				88.72	0
Three month ECU	Jun 92	89.51	89.58	89.53	89.53	351
Previous open interest: 11054	Sep 92	89.81	89.82	89.80	89.83	273
Euro Swiss Franc	Jun 92	90.88	90.88	90.84	90.86	3721
Previous open interest: 14673	Sep 92	91.25	91.33	91.24	91.31	5907
Italian Govt Bond	Sep 92	96.02	96.14	95.80	95.87	33344

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

COMMODITIES

[illegible]

Australia dollar	2.4124-2.4154	Austria	11.15-11.17
Bahrain dinar	0.687-0.696	Belgium (Com)	32.62-32.66
Brazil cruzeiro	5610-5622-75	Canada	1.040-1.045

[illegible]

Number of hauls	<i>P. setiferus</i> (%)	<i>P. setiferus</i> + <i>P. setiferus</i> + <i>P. setiferus</i> (%)	<i>P. setiferus</i> + <i>P. setiferus</i> + <i>P. setiferus</i> (%)
1	10	10	0
2	20	20	0
3	30	30	0
4	40	40	0
5	50	50	0
6	60	60	0
7	70	70	0
8	80	80	0
9	90	90	0
10	100	100	0

Management buy-ins make a comeback

By DEREK HARRIS

A GROWING breed of second-time-around entrepreneurs is bringing a revival of the management buy-in as companies continue shedding non-core businesses. Ex-managers leading buy-ins are "an exceptional mixture of personality and motivation", according to research by 3i, Britain's biggest provider of venture capital.

Often they develop the strongest team by including key individuals who were part of the previous management. The result is a mixture of a management buyout and a buy-in, now known as a buy-in management buyout, or Bimbo.

Since 1985, the number of MBIs has been growing rapidly following the earlier popularity of MBOs. In 1989, MBI activity slowed. However, last year there were 111 MBIs in Britain, according to the Centre for Management Buyout Research at Nottingham University. 3i invested in 40 per cent of them and, to organise a flow of high-calibre managers ready to lead buy-ins, it set up a panel as part of its MBI programme.

Patrick Dunne, who heads the 3i buy-in unit, said: "The research indicates a new wave of MBI activity and an increase in their success rate. There had been a sharp rise in 3i's own buy-in activity, he said. 3i has spotted a new trend for MBIs to attract those who have been involved before,

either in MBOs or have previously owned and managed businesses, which they have sold.

The survey says these second-time entrepreneurs demonstrate drive and enthusiasm to achieve success and have also showed self-confidence in breaking out of comfortable corporate jobs to run independent businesses.

Conviction that breaking out is a good thing to do reaches a peak when managers reach their mid-forties. This is when the frustrations in working for somebody else are growing.



"I'm afraid in your case there seems no sign of economic recovery"

An old craft that is still in demand

By DAVID ASKHAM

THE craft of thatching is still much in demand, beautifying English villages and preserving ancient heritage. However, it is not only a question of preserving old cottages: the latest development is thatch for new property.

Derek Pearce and Andrew Barsby, two Wiltshire thatchers, recently completed a thatched roof on an entirely new house in a south Wiltshire village. They are now working on an extension to an existing thatched property.

With the new house, the owners decided early on a thatched roof.

Mr Pearce said: "The owners asked me nearly two years ago if I would be interested in the job, long before they appointed a builder." Roofing the four-bedroom house this way cost about £12,000. Rethatching, which so far accounts for most thatching work, is more expensive by as much as a quarter because of the labour in the stripping and disposing of old thatch. Rethatching an average three-bedroom cottage costs between £6,000 and £8,000.

Mr Pearce said: "A well-thatched roof will last at least 25 years. Norfolk reed - now frequently imported from abroad and twice the price of combed wheat reed - has a life span of around 60 or 70 years. In a good situation, Norfolk reed roofs have been known to last for as much as 100 years."

The pair, whose order book is full for the rest of this year, are unusual among thatchers, who



Preserving an ancient heritage: Wiltshire thatchers Andrew Barsby (left) and Derek Pearce

tend to be isolated craftsmen. Nearly 18 months ago they came together in what they describe as "a loose partnership".

Mr Pearce has spent most of his 25 years of working life following in his father's footsteps because he is descended from a Wiltshire thatching family that goes back almost 300 years.

Mr Barsby is a first-generation thatcher who, about 20 years ago, left school and joined an experienced thatcher and then started on his own. The partnership con-

fers several advantages, said Mr Pearce. He went on: "Apart from enjoying each other's company we think alike and complement each other at work very well. For instance, during the past hot summer, we both started work at five o'clock in the morning and worked through till one in the afternoon, allowing us to rest from the heat in the afternoons."

Speed in getting a job done can be crucial. The new house thatching, for example, had a strict time limit. Mr Pearce said: "With two

of us we can complete work more swiftly and that makes us more competitive."

They believe it is client satisfaction which has ensured their full order book through the recession. They both invested in good training, each attending courses organised at Knuston Hall, Northamptonshire, by the Rural Development Commission.

Mr Pearce said: "We're proud of producing a high quality product." Gale damage has brought a flow of work.

BRIEFINGS

Much improved sales and a slight improvement in investment intentions are reported in the latest quarterly survey from the Small Business Research Trust, sponsored by National Westminster Bank. However, jobs are still being shed by small businesses. A positive balance of 20 per cent of small businesses surveyed expected sales to rise, with the most optimism evident in Wales (a positive balance of 37 per cent), while both East Anglia and the West Midlands stood at plus 24 per cent. Least cheerful was the East Midlands, but it was still recording plus 10 per cent.

□ Berg and Co, a Manchester solicitor, has set up Berg Business Consulting to advise small businesses on problems, including under-capitalisation, raising development capital, insolvency and banking difficulties. Berg reckons that 46,000 small businesses will fail this year because advice is not available or is too expensive. Tel: 061-833 9211.

□ Two videos for managers have been produced by TV Choice Productions. *Business In The Real World* shows dramatised case studies, including managerial bullying, sexism and racism. It uses strong language to create realism. The five half-hour programmes cost £240 each, plus VAT. *Minor Should Not Have Closed Down* is an account of a company that goes into receivership. This video costs £240, plus VAT. Tel: 071-379 0873.

EDITED BY DEREK HARRIS

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

INFOTECH TIMES

Japan's research goes flat

A new screen, not a thinking machine, has emerged, writes Matthew May

A collective smirk has now been set on the face of the serious side of the computer industry for several years whenever the term fifth generation is mentioned. In 1982 Japan envisaged that this month would be one of celebration as it would mark the tenth and final anniversary of the project that was going to leap ahead of the computer technology of the rest of the world and develop machines capable of artificial intelligence.

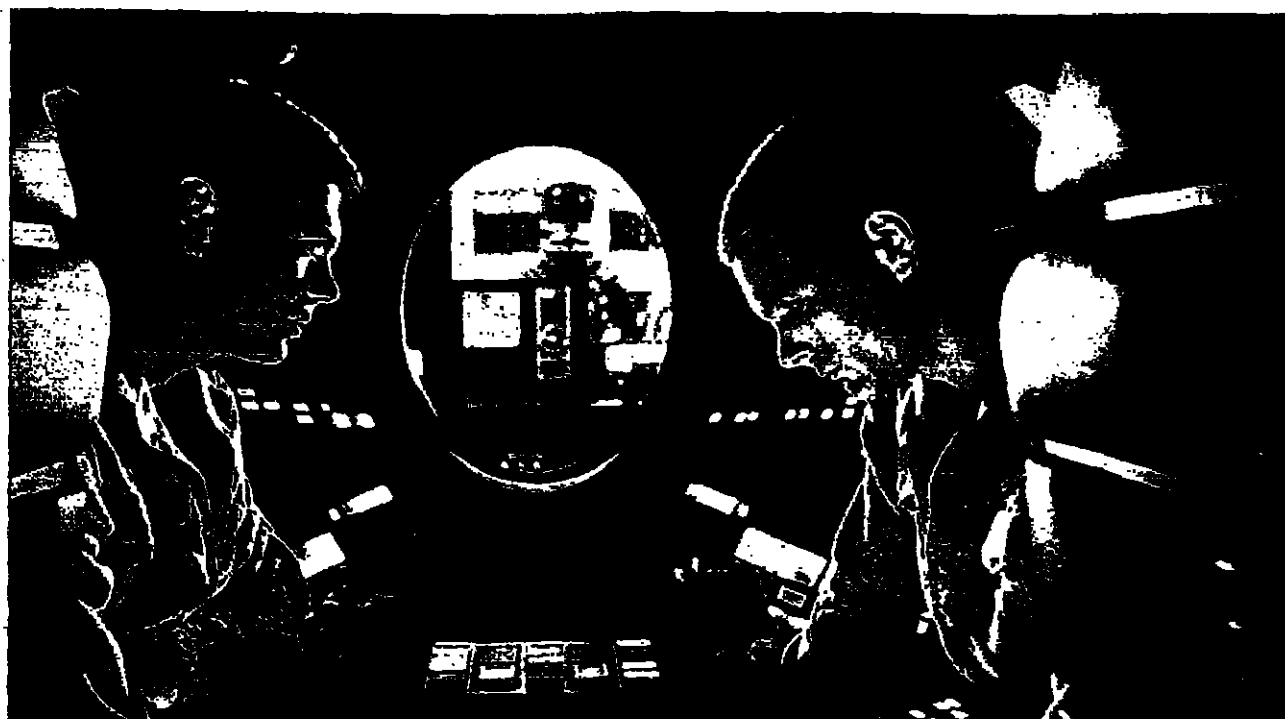
Instead, only about 130 of the world's computers turned up at a Tokyo conference last week to try to defend the £230 million project that has failed to produce computers with the ability to make reasoned judgments.

The project has provided only modest advances in parallel processing, a technique that involves using a large number of processors simultaneously to tackle complex problems. Some American companies have dismissed this as something they have been able to do for some time.

Some international experts at the conference said significant achievements had been made, however, and blamed the media for setting expectations too high, envisaging that Japan was producing a thinking computer closely resembling the machine HAL in the film 2001: A Space Odyssey.

Others around the world are also muted in their criticisms of what most agree has been a gigantic flop.

Scientists working on some government-funded projects know also that without Japan's plans for a fifth generation American and European governments would not have been panicked into setting up much of their own research and development programmes. They feared that by this year Japan would be dominating the computer industry just as it had attacked the consumer



electronics and car industries.

Even if Japan has failed in one important area — and there is little international concern over its next project on neural networks — it is set to have a huge stake in, if not to dominate, another field in which it has been internationally weak, that of PCs. Japan has been handicapped by needing to develop unique domestic PCs with high-resolution screens, keyboards and special processing power to handle Japanese characters.

The considerable part of the world that uses a Roman alphabet raced towards a common de facto standard established by the first IBM PC. The result of this is that millions of cheap PCs can now choose from thousands of software packages.

In Japan, however, NEC and Epson account for 60 per cent of sales with machines that are incompatible with the industry standard for the rest of the world, while dedicated word processing machines still sell well. The latter products are virtually obsolete in most countries, having been replaced by a PC and a cheap word processing package.

Until recently this hampered Japanese exports of PCs and equally made it difficult for foreigners to gain a foothold. The problems of producing PCs that are able to handle



Coming soon: people expected a computer from Japan like HAL in 2001. Top. They got the flat screen, above.

the complexities of the Japanese language have been a far more effective barrier to trade than any protectionism by the Japanese.

The largest of the foreign computer companies represented in Japan is IBM. The group's subsidiary has been there since 1950 and now employs 23,000 people. Japan is the only country in which IBM operates without being the leader at some time.

IBM is now trying hard to adopt the world industry standard by providing a special

version of the ubiquitous DOS operating system known as DOS V, able to handle both the processing of the Japanese language on standard PCs and also run software from the rest of the world.

While foreign manufacturers may still find it difficult to sell in Japan to the fiercely brand-loyal customers, Japanese manufacturers now have a thriving export market, which has been transformed since the sale of portable computers took off.

Most portable computers use a flat liquid crystal display

screen and it is Japanese companies that have a virtual monopoly in all the latest technology behind them. Such companies as Toshiba, Sharp, and NEC are able to sell their own portable computers abroad and provide the screens used in many of the portable computers produced by the rest of the world's manufacturers.

The only large-scale foreign involvement in the manufacture of flat screens is IBM, but this is through a Japan-based company, Display Technologies, that it set up jointly with Toshiba.

Sales of portables are expected to take more and more of the PC market, and, some pundits say, the portable will eventually replace the desktop computer completely.

Flat screens, the advocates say, are not only thin and light but also have less flicker and lower power consumption and should remove the fear of any potential health problems caused by electromagnetic radiation.

Whether it is a desktop or a portable, the flat screen looks likely to make the use of today's bulky cathode ray tube as a computer screen extinct if it can be produced at the right size and price.

These are the two crucial problems. The larger the screen the more difficult it is to

make, and because one speck of dust can ruin the production process, more than half the screens made at some plants have to be thrown away.

Companies such as Display Technologies, NEC and Canon are working on 14in flat colour screens that will be large enough for desktop use and they are confident that prices will fall steadily.

The future of flat colour screens, however, is not just in computers. Sharp is already selling an 8in flat colour television in Japan, though at a steep price, but, as in the computer field, costs are expected to fall quickly and the screen size to increase. It is quite possible that flat screen televisions in the home will become common within a few years.

If tomorrow's high-definition television (HDTV) systems are to succeed as planned, some alternative must be found to the cathode ray tube. HDTV sets need to be larger than current televisions if their promise of providing cinema quality in the home is to be achieved.

The requirement for cathode ray tube sets to be nearly as deep as they are wide means many customers will balk at the prospect of having one in the living room.

The answer is, of course, the sort of flat wall screens that science fiction films have envisaged for years but have proved remarkably elusive.

Whether or not sufficiently large liquid crystal display screens will ever be possible is unknown. Other possibilities include improved video projection systems and plasma displays.

On Wednesday Japan's NHK public broadcasting service showed off a 40in television wall screen only 3in thick that had been developed in its laboratories. NHK said the plasma technology used still had several problems but could be in the shops by 1997.

Whatever the final solution, there is little doubt that it will be Japanese companies that will be behind them, and although they may have failed with the fifth generation the smirks of the rest of the computer industry may disappear when every screen in the office and home is Japanese.

ON LINE

Data in miniature

THE world's smallest disc drive, a matchbox-sized device supplying portable memory to machines including handheld computers and mobile telephones has been announced by Hewlett-Packard. The 1.3in disc drive can hold more than 21.4 megabytes of memory, equal to more than 14,000 typed pages.

The small drive could be an alternative to solid state memory, or flash memory cards that also hold extra memory but at three or more times the cost. The company will sell the drive for about £250, or £140 if ordered in bulk.

Euro phones

THE European Community is to make it easier for companies to lease telephone lines from public networks across the EC. Legislation adopted by telecommunications ministers will allow businesses to set up pan-European networks for services such as databases, electronic mail and electronic money transfers under standard conditions. This is the first vital step in the EC's Open Network Provision plan to liberalise access to public telecommunications.

The measures, which will take effect a year after states are notified of their adoption, require procedures for leasing lines to be open and non-discriminatory.

Honesty lessons

SCHOOLS in America should teach computer ethics to discourage young people from becoming involved in high-technology crime, says a report from the justice and education departments. The report gave examples of school programmes to teach responsible computer use. In elementary schools, children could be taught about key concepts and legal information in ways to which they can relate. Secondary school students could take part in mock trials of technology criminals and could be taught about intellectual property rights and technology licensing.

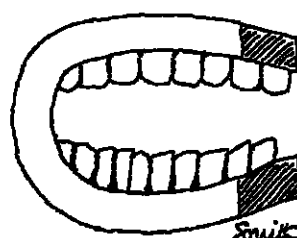
Fibre pictures

NIPPON Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) has tested a new system of sending images through optical fibres, paving

the way for advanced computer applications. The Japanese telecommunications company says the system uses a device known as a spatial light modulator to remove distortions that usually occur when images, ranging from televised calls to computer graphics, are sent over optical fibres. NTT says transmission speed and capacity could be increased as images are transmitted at once. In conventional transmissions using electrical signals, an image is divided into billions of dots called pixels. This process, however, is time-consuming as the pixels are sent in sequence to avoid distortion.

Locked jaw

A JAPANESE company has developed a system by which false teeth are fixed to the mouth by a magnet. The magnet helps to fix the teeth to a small, stainless-steel plate embedded in the top of the mouth, says a spokesman for



Hitachi Metals. Asked whether the magnet might also attract forks, spoons, needles or other metal objects, the spokesman said: "In the early stages of development we were worried about that, but our new product is perfectly designed so as to stop the magnet from attracting anything except false teeth." The company tested the safety of the attachment first on rabbits and rats.

French zoom

ZENITH Data Systems has announced an extensive family of computer products and a new logo that it hopes will lift it out of the doldrums and re-establish it in the PC market. The French-owned company, which previously concentrated on selling clones, or lower-priced copies of expensive computers, is now taking a more aggressive approach with machines that boast new technology. The computers also look better thanks to Frogdesign, the industrial designer that created the look of Apple Computer's Macintosh and Next's workstations.

Challenge on the line

The French telephone system is no longer a joke. Today France has more subscribers than Britain



Building up: how long can BT stay ahead in Europe?

are often linked by high-capacity fibre-optic cables as traditional copper wire connections are phased out.

They enabled the test introduction of a commercial integrated services digital network (ISDN) in France in 1987, able to carry images, including moving pictures and computer data, as well as voice signals.

Britain and France are neck and neck in ISDN provision. The new service is available to

pictures by telephone at a cost of about £4,000.

BT and France Telecom are among six national organisations taking part in an ISDN European Video Telephony Experiment known as the Eve-2 trials. They are intended to determine the technical features most desired by the technology's potential customers. BT predicts the worldwide market for visual services will reach £1.6 billion in three years.

BT claims a lead in videotelephony and next year intends to sell PC-based videophone systems developed with IBM. Under these systems existing PCs can be converted with the addition of a camera, a special circuit board and an ISDN telephone socket.

The cleverest part of the new videophone is the microchip, called a video codec, which encodes and compresses the moving image signal so that it can be transmitted. The service will be aimed largely at business users.

France Telecom, however, has achieved more with ordinary customers. The company has created a lucrative domestic market for electronic information services by supplying its interactive Minitel telex terminals free of charge.

More than five million Minitel terminals are connected to the French telephone network to give access to more than 12,000 information services ranging from share dealing to lonely hearts services.

France Telecom estimates that the whole of the rest of Europe adds only another million users for such services, although, unlike BT, operators in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the Irish Republic and Italy have ambitious plans to connect their telephone networks to computer-based systems and emulate the success of France.

Advocates of the French system say the alternative teletext broadcast-based systems such as Celexa and Oracle in the UK are no substitute for a good telephone-based system because they limit accessibility and offer little incentive to potential information providers.

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Bowling variety needed for second Test

England look to welcome back Malcolm's pace

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS plain to all at Edgbaston this week that the most pressing problem afflicting the England team is a shortage of bowling variety. It is not quite so plain what can be done about it.

Indeed, when the selectors link up this weekend to finalise plans for the second Test match, which starts at Lord's next Thursday, they could spend more time on the bowling than on the batting.

They would give a lot, for instance, to name Lawrence and Tufnell, respectively the speed and the guile that was missing on Edgbaston's sterile surface. Neither is fit. Fraser, the one bowler England would never have considered omitting at his best, is neither fully fit nor remotely in form.

Of those who might be considered, doubts persist about most of the fast bowlers and the generation gap conspires against the spinners, some being past their best and others yet to reach it.

Against such odds, the temptation is to abandon experiment and leave things as they are. This, however,

would be unforgivable, not so much in terms of the personnel involved as the balance of the side.

England's approach at Edgbaston was that of a team desperate to avoid going one down. Gooch wanted to bowl first yet, by including only four bowlers, he betrayed negative thoughts.

Gooch was not to know that only two balls would be bowled on Friday and that the weather would then turn in favour of the batsmen or that the pitch would contain none of the promised pace and bounce. But the tactics were still defensive and the first thing to be decided now is that Botham, assuming his recovery from a groin strain, must return to No. 6 in the batting order.

Botham's virtue is that he gives the side balance because he is that rarity, a genuine sixth batsman and fifth bowler. This is an advantage wasted if he bats at seven as one of only four bowlers.

It will be hard on Ramprakash, who received the closest to an unplayable ball seen in the game. But with Lewis at seven and Russell, possibly batting better

than at any time in his life, at eight, there is no question of a long tail.

DeFreitas may still disappoint with the bat but he no longer does with the ball and he was not only the one England bowler to take a wicket at Edgbaston but the only one who seemed likely to. With Lewis boasting to operate at little more than medium pace, the comparable runnings of Botham and Pringle were too much of an indifferent thing.

Pringle should be the one to go now but if, as is likely, his place is taken by Devon Malcolm, it will reflect nothing more starkly than a lack of alternatives.

Malcolm's 12 first-class wickets this year have cost 43 runs each. Gooch said he was overlooked for the first Test because he was not bowling well enough when the team was chosen, a situation that can hardly have altered for the six overs he has purveyed in the fortnight since. He plays at Harrogate today, though, and will not need sensational figures to reclaim the place he lost after the corresponding Test at Lord's last year.

Munton might remain in the squad, though probably with the same frustrating outcome he suffered on his home ground, and others who could be considered are Cork, for his ability to swing the ball at lively speed, and Ilett, not only talented but, as a left-arm, different.

Salisbury was chosen in the party for Edgbaston on the theory that conditions would suit his leg spin and left out of the XI on the theory that they would not. Gooch has since admitted that he should have played and it certainly seems illogical to jettison him now, though there may be a lobby for John Childs.

Essex ban Hussain

NASSER Hussain was yesterday suspended for two matches by Essex for "internal disciplinary reasons". The 24-year-old batsman, who played three Test matches for England in 1990 and has been on the last two England A winter tours, will miss the county championship and Sunday League fixtures against Durham at Hartlepool this weekend.

Essex, traditionally one of the happiest of clubs, have revealed Hussain's suspen-

sion because they feel his absence this weekend should be explained. It is understood the incident involving Hussain took place in the Essex dressing-room on the final day of their championship match against Kent at Tunbridge Wells on Monday.

Peter Edwards, the Essex secretary, said: "We are certainly not going into further details and everyone at the club has been told not to comment about it and that the matter is now closed."

Pakistanis in sight of another win

BY IVO TENNANT

TRENT BRIDGE (second day of three): The Pakistanis, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, need 73 runs to beat Nottinghamshire

THE Pakistanis have beaten three counties in first-class matches so far on their tour and there is no reason to suppose they will not win again today. Aamir Sohail surpassed himself with a flurry of wickets that brought him ten fours in his half-century and his side to within 73 runs of victory.

If it takes pecuniary incentive from Teley Bitter for these matches to become more competitive than in the past, then so be it. Nottinghamshire are fielding virtually their strongest side here, not that that is apparent from the scorecard. Dismissed for 116 on Wednesday, they failed little better yesterday.

It was a day when the bad ball had to be put away to the boundary. Johnson and Lewis managed to do so and in a way which made a nonsense of everyone else's efforts.

Johnson, whose time may yet come at the highest level, had 14 fours in his 60, all of them cleanly struck. Naved Anjum was summarily sent off. As for Lewis his driving off the back foot was a constant delight. There were nine fours in his 50-ball 47.

Otherwise Aqib Javed and when he chose to slip himself,

Wasim Akram, were too much for a side which seemed to want for direction.

The dismissal of Randall, given caught behind by Bob White, was a case in point. Randall stood his ground in disbelief. When he did depart he turned round four times on his way to the pavilion.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings 116 (Wasim Akram 4 for 8)

Second Innings

B C Broad c Rahman b Tariq 19

M A Crawley c Rashid b Aqib 25

R T Robinson c Rashid b Rahman 15

P Johnson bow b Wasim 50

D W Randall c Rashid b Tariq 50

C C Lewis c Mubtas b Aqib 47

Zahid Fazal bow b Cooper 5

J N M French c Inzamam b Aqib 11

R A Pick c Rashid b Wasim 28

A J Marshall not out 2

K E Cooper not out 2

Extras (lb 1, lb 3, nb 5) 15

Total 212

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-38, 3-49, 4-58, 5-67, 6-77, 7-82, 8-82

BOWLING: Wasim 14-24-2; Aqib 15-21-4; Rahman 8-24-1; Anjum 9-32-26-1; Tariq 11-30-2

PAKISTANS: First Innings

Shoaib Mohammad c Broad b Pick 16

Aamir Sohail c French b Cooper 47

Aqib Javed c French b White 58

Inzamam-ul-Haq c Johnson b Pick 58

Zahid Fazal bow b Cooper 5

Wasim Akram run out 8

Naved Anjum b Evans 4

Aamir Sohail c French b Pick 4

Tariq Mahmood c French b Evans 8

Aqib Javed c Broad b Evans 8

A J Marshall not out 1

K E Cooper not out 1

Extras (lb 2, nb 5) 7

Total 168

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-36, 2-72, 3-74, 4-78, 5-81, 6-81, 7-82, 8-82

BOWLING: Lewis 7-23-1; Pick 16-4-56-3; Evans 21-5-44-4; Cooper 12-6-22-2

Second Innings

Shoaib Mohammad not out 23

Aamir Sohail c French b Aftab 58

Aqib Javed not out 3

Extras (lb 3, w 1, nb 5) 9

Total (1 wk) 98

FALL OF WICKET: 1-80

Umpires: G I Burgess and R A White

Hampshire seeking to regain momentum

HAMPSHIRE, the championship leaders, will be hoping to regain their winning momentum when they meet Warwickshire in Birmingham today (Simon Wilde writes). Since going top of the table at Old Trafford a fortnight ago, they have watched in frustration as rain cut short their matches with Durham and Yorkshire, the latter of whom, in particular, were lucky to escape with a draw.

Hampshire can be assured of two things today. One is that Warwickshire, who have yet to be involved in a draw this season, will be no less enterprising than themselves. The other is that the pitch will not be as benign as that seen at Edgbaston earlier this week for the first Test.

Tony Middleton, the Hampshire opening batsman, will be attempting to close the gap on Nick Speak, of Lancashire, in the race to be the first batsman to score 1,000 first-class runs this season.

Middleton's tally stands on 782 and Speak, who today faces Glamorgan in Colwyn Bay, 881. Tim Curtis, the Worcestershire captain, who lies one run behind Middleton, may be optimistic of boosting his tally at the Oval against struggling Surrey.

With Northamptonshire and Somerset not playing, Durham, the new boys, have the chance to move into second place with victory over Essex, the champions, at Hartlepool.

Cottey's class decisive

HARROGATE: Glamorgan beat Sussex by 122 runs

A MAGNIFICENT stand of 120 in 15 overs between Tony Cottey and Sudesh Dhaniram lifted Glamorgan to a total of 291 for five, which proved well beyond Sussex in the Tilton Trophy final at Harrogate.

Cottey made 91 from 104 balls, with a six and ten fours, while Dhaniram, not on Glamorgan's books but called into their side because of injury problems, finished unbeaten on 65. The 25-year-old from Guyana, who plays league cricket in Wales, hit three sixes and six fours from 52 balls.

Steve Bastien took the first four wickets as Sussex collapsed to 62 for four and despite useful innings by the captain, Alan Wells (36), and Peter Moores (37) they were dismissed for 169 with 11 overs left, leaving Glamorgan winners by 122 runs.

GLAMORGAN

S P James run out 49

H Morris b Moore b Donnelly 41

P A Cottey bow b Stephen 91

D L Hemp bow b Stephen 91

M P Maynard c b Greenfield 35

S Greenfield not out 66

Extras (lb 10, w 5) 15

Total (5 wks, 55 overs) 291

R D B Croft, J C P Metson, S L Watkins, S R Samuels and S Bastien

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-55, 2-102, 3-111, 4-171, 5-291

BOWLING: James 11-1-24-0; Robinson 9-0-70-0; Donnelly 7-0-36-1; Lenthorn 10-2-45-0; Stephen 11-0-56-2; Greenfield 7-0-45-1

SUSSEX

M J Hall b Bastien 12

D M Smith b Bastien 4

K Greenfield bow b Bastien 4

M P Spight c Croft b Bastien 21

P D Stephen c Metson b Bastien 7

A P Wells at Metson b Croft 36

N J Lenthorn c Maynard b Watkins 19

RP Moore c Maynard b Bastien 16

B T P Donnelly not out 15

A N Jones b Dhaniram 0

A G Robinson run out 0

Extras (lb 6, w 8, nb 1) 15

Total (43.8 overs) 169

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-27, 3-43, 4-48, 5-77, 6-101, 7-110, 8-165, 9-165

BOWLING: Wasim 8-1-23-1; Bastien 9-0-31-4; Croft 11-0-56-2; Barwick 8-5-0-25-2; Dhaniram 7-0-25-1

Umpires: N T Paves and R Julian

THE PARKS (two-day match): Harrogate 19-8; Glamorgan 4-4; Sussex 14-4

Title match-up

The World Boxing Council light heavyweight champion, Jeff Harding, from Australia, will defend his title on September 4 against Darrin Van Horn, an American, in the Virgin Islands.

Rent deadline

Rugby league's newest recruits, Scarborough Pirates, have been given until Monday to find £5,000 owed in rent or face eviction from Scarborough football club



Taking guard: Kevin Sewell prepares for his "Test" appearance at Lord's

MCC gives handicapped cricketers their chance

BY ANGELA WIGGLESWORTH

IF YOU went to Lord's and saw people playing cricket with a white football, you would wonder if the gentlemen of MCC had taken leave of their senses. They haven't — but they are allowing a new form of the game to be staged during the lunch interval at the second Test match against Pakistan next Thursday.

Members of the Metropolitan Sports and Social Club for the Visually Handicapped will be doing their stuff. Four of the players are totally blind and the seven partially sighted players do the running for the blind batsmen. The ball is a size-five white football filled with lead shots, so the players can hear it coming.

A few other rules: the less sight players have, the closer they field to the wicket; a partially sighted batsman gets one bounce when facing the bowling; a totally blind player, who has to memorise where the field-

ers are, gets two, which gives him the chance to assess the speed and direction of the ball from the sound it makes.

The players are aged from about 18 to 39, with the exception of Kevin Sewell, aged 41, who discovered two years ago that he had a degenerative eye disorder and has already lost much of his central vision.

The club has more than 100 members. One of its founders, Mike Brace, aged 41, who lost his sight as a result of a firework accident, has been awarded the MBE for his services to blind sport.

"We started the club in 1973," he said. "A number of us were playing cricket for blind teams but it didn't seem to be organised as a proper sport. We decided to form a team and do other sports as well."

"This year, we've had a major thrust at tackling sport for visually impaired

children because we realised there were now many of them in mainstream schools who had no opportunity to take part."

The club, whose president is Brian Johnston, liaised with the London Community Cricket Association to hold the first of their "Let's have a go" activity days offering coaching in cricket and judo at Lord's, football at Arsenal and water sports at the Docklands Sailing Centre. "We had four coaches from the London cricket association with about 60 kids one day," Bruce said.

The umpire for the demonstration next Thursday will be Bob Welsh, a Harrogate bus driver. "When you stop feeling sorry for the players and start saying, 'Isn't it amazing they can put one foot in front of another?', you start appreciating that they are just normal sportsmen who can't see very well," he said.

SWIMMING

Baker passes demanding examination of character

BY CRAIG LORR

QUALIFYING for the rest of her life probably cost Zoe Baker, aged 16, a place on the Olympic team three weeks ago, and the national 50 metres breaststroke record last night. Consolation for that was her first national title, in her home pool of Ponds Forge, Sheffield.

Baker, hair still dripping from the morning heats at the Optrex national championships, spend most of the few hours before last night's final in a classroom scribbling answers to her GCSE science exam.

But while four other exams had taken the edge off her performance in the pool at

the Olympic trials, Baker put that disappointment and the scholastic efforts of her day behind her to take the title in 32.70sec, only 0.11 of a second outside the national record, held by Lorraine Coombes, who was second.

"I was really tired at the trials because of the exams; but I've got over that now," Baker said. "I thought I could get the record tonight, but there's time yet."

Disqualification prevented Leeds gaining a clean sweep of medals in the 50 metres breaststroke. A second false start by James Parrack cost him the national title and the official time of 28.77sec, only

0.02sec outside the British record of Adrian Moorhouse. Moorhouse, who will defend his Olympic 100 metres breaststroke title at Barcelona in six weeks, won from Jason Fender, his Olympic teammate. Moorhouse's 29.03sec swim was faster than national title winning effort last year.

Grant Robins consoled himself for missing the Olympic team with victory in the 400 metres medley. But his time failed by two seconds to surpass that which secured a place in Barcelona for his Andy Rolley, his Portsmouth team-mate. Rolley treated the race as a training swim, finishing sixth in 4min 38.26sec, 14 seconds slower than his best.

Conversely, Mark Foster, who will compete in the 50 metres freestyle in Spain, used last night's 50 metres butterfly to confirm superb form. His 24.92sec swim was only 0.01sec outside his Commonwealth record.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Britain are forced to start series without Hanley

FROM KEITH MACKLIN IN SYDNEY

ELLERY Hanley will not lead Great Britain in the first international against Australia at the Sydney Football Stadium today. The cat-and-mouse game played by the coach, Malcolm Reilly, with his opposite number, Bobby Fulton, and the Australian press ended yesterday when Reilly announced: "Ellery is making rapid progress, and has had some good training sessions, but he felt a reaction from his foot injury and I couldn't risk him."

Thus Great Britain enter today's first game against the world champions without their captain, who has yet to play on tour and misses his seventh game. Reilly attempted to defuse the mounting disquiet over Hanley's absence with a stress fracture by saying: "He is making such good progress that he could be in contention for a game within a week."

Hanley's absence means that Phil Clarke, aged 21, will play in his first international against Australia, a big responsibility for a young player with only two previous appearances at this level, against Papua New Guinea. He will be helped by the fact that there will be four other members of the Wigan team around him in the pack.

Reilly said that Hanley's absence would not affect the side's game plan. This was endorsed by Fulton, who said: "Great Britain will be strong no matter what formation they play. There is no longer a gap in class between the sides. The 1990 series proved that."

The last time Great Britain met Australia at this stadium, in the third and final game in 1989, the Lions won a stunning and totally unexpected victory with an injury-ravaged side, a win which marked the revival of British rugby league and led to the Wembley triumph and close-fought 1990 series.

Nevertheless, a heavy beating for Britain today would turn the clock back to the Seventies and Eighties. So far the Lions have won all six games on tour, but they struggled in the debilitating heat of Papua New Guinea, and only the Illawarra performance was convincing.

To win before a crowd of more than 35,000, including 4,000 British supporters, Reilly's men will have to subdue a mighty Australian pack and the half-backs, Gregory and Schofield, must get the ball out to the potential match-winner, Martin Offiah.

If the Australian forwards dominate and Britain's half-backs are stifled, Britain will struggle to pierce the famous barbed wire defence and could well go one down in the three-match series.

AUSTRALIA: A Fitzgibbon (Canberra), M Horwood (Brisbane), L Daley (Canberra), M Hastings (Canberra), P West (Newcastle), P Jackson (North Sydney), A Langer (Brisbane), P Harrigan (Newcastle), S Walters (Canberra), G Lazarus (Brisbane), P Brown (Brisbane), S Lindsay (Western Suburbs), S Clyde (Canberra). GREAT BRITAIN: G Sheahan (Canberra), P Newell (Preston), D Powell (Sheffield Eagles), P Loughlin (St Helens), M Offiah (Wigan), P Schofield (Leeds), A Gregory (Wigan), T Sherrin (Wigan), M Demott (Wigan), L Crookes (Canberra), A Platt (Wigan), D Bees (Wigan), P Clarke (Wigan). Referee: D Hale (New Zealand).

ATHLETICS

Elliott progresses ahead of Morceli

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

ONE week's lost training after turning an ankle seems hardly worth a mention in the Peter Elliott injury file, where dust rarely settles. The file is back on the shelf because tonight Elliott returns to racing. If only it would stay there for nine weeks more until the Olympic 1,500 metres final is over.

Wondering whether it will compare with the uneasy feeling of waiting for the bus, hoping it will arrive in time to get you to work. But, for now, it is Nouredine Morceli, and not Elliott, who is fidgeting.

Elliott, the Commonwealth title-holder whose Achilles tendon discomfort brought him home early from the world championships last year, had his first track workout on Wednesday since hurting his left ankle. He returned with three 400s, three 300s and three 200s. "I ran them controlled because I just wanted to know how my lungs were and how my ankle felt," Elliott said. "I was pleased with how they went."

As he looked forward to racing a mile in Rotherham tonight, Morceli was reflecting on his first injury worry since he burst from the pack to become the world No. 1 in 1990. After suffering in Rome on Tuesday, his first 1,500 metres defeat for two years, he disclosed that he had missed 45 days training with a groin pain and that it was worrying him.

"If I still have this problem, I think I will not be able to run in the Olympics," Morceli, the world champion, said after trailing in behind Gennaro di Napoli. It is a point of interest here that Elliott beat di Napoli in a road mile in Aberdeen a month ago.

BOWLS

English pair thwart Scottish title hopes

SUPPORTERS turned out in large numbers to lift Sarah Gourlay and Senga McCrone in the women's world bowls championships at Ayr yesterday, but left disappointed when the Scottish pair failed to overtake Mavis Le Marquand and Sheila Syvret, of Jersey, at the top of section B (David Rhys Jones writes).

Jean Baker and Mary Price, of England, were not too popular with the Scots, who had expected them to beat the Channel Islanders. Instead, the English pair lost 24-18, only making the score respectable with seven shots over the last three ends.

Compounding their felony, Baker and Price later began to show the form expected of them when they met the Scots, and won, 18-17. Price turned the tide with a perfect draw on the eighteenth end.

Jersey were overtaken by Zambia after losing 31-11 to Botswana, but Jenny Nicolle and Anne Simon, of Guernsey, threw section A into turmoil by beating Phillis Nolan and Margaret Johnston, of Ireland, 23-19.

England were helped in the triples by Canada and Zimbabwe, who beat South Africa, 20-18, and New Zealand, 20-13, respectively.

Cash beats two seeds in same day

Brittle Ivanisevic cracks against Matsuo's service

BY ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

NO DEFEAT is straightforward for Goran Ivanisevic. A year ago, he lost to Nick Brown, of Britain, at Wimbledon. Yesterday, in the third round of the Stella Artois tournament at Queen's, he was beaten in 57 minutes by a karate-loving Japanese right-hander, who is only recently discovered the lights of grass-court tennis.

Even for the Croat, that was bizarre, particularly as he had been reassuring everyone within earshot that he was made of sterner stuff these days.

His conqueror, Shuzo Matsuo, admitted that he was unable to see Ivanisevic's services early in the first set, let alone return them, but once he adjusted his sights he played with an assurance way beyond his limited experience on grass.

It was a long day and thankfully a dry one. Chris Wilkinson had potentially the busiest schedule because he had not completed his first round. But, having recorded his first win in the main draw of an ATP tournament, the British No. 2 lost to Wayne Ferreira in the second round.

Following the departure of two former Stella champions, Boris Becker and Ivan Lendl, three of the top ten seeds — Ivanisevic, Guy Forget and David Wheaton — went out, leaving only a smattering of seeds in the fourth round. Two of them, Pete Sampras and Brad Gilbert, will meet today in the fourth round.

Sampras served too solidly for Gianluca Pozzi, who

broke the habit of a lifetime by playing Wimbledon last year and winning a round.

The Italian gave the No. 2 seed a fair run for his money yesterday, too, and might have done better had he managed to get hold of Sampras's service.

There was only one break of service in Sampras's 7-5, 7-5 victory, so clearly the American's service returns were only marginally better.

"People think my game is good for grass because I serve and volley," Sampras said.

"But I am a Californian and have long, gangly strokes, so I have been trying to shorten my backswing."

He has the Gulliksons, Tom and Tim, to help him and has the support of Becker, among others, who nominated Sampras along with Stefan Edberg, Jim Courier and himself as the four Wimbledon favourites. "That is very flattering," Sampras said. "But it doesn't put any extra pressure on me."

A change of style has clearly benefited Matsuo's confidence. Two years ago, he was a baseliner, who might have been a celebrity in his home town of Tokyo but had made little impression elsewhere.

Yet earlier this year, playing with new-found aggression and enjoyment, he won his first title, in Seoul, and had a match point before losing to Michael Stich in Tokyo.

Before this tournament, Matsuo had won just three matches on grass in his life, one at Wimbledon, two here

last year. Yesterday, by beating two seeds — Malivai Washington in the morning, Ivanisevic in the afternoon — to reach the fourth round, he equalled his career tally and served solidly enough to suggest that his journey might not be over yet.

Ivanisevic did not help his own cause by serving two double faults in the tenth game to give the well-built Japanese the first set. Once he had been broken again early in the next set, the Croat's notoriously brittle resistance broke. "He just lost his concentration then, threw his racket and his serve was not the same," Matsuo said.

"At the start, I was laughing inside because he was serving aces and the people didn't clap. It was so quiet."

Pat Cash emulated Matsuo by also knocking out two seeds in one day. The Australian disposed of Jakob Hlasek and Amos Mansdorf to reach the fourth round. The second was rather more straightforward than the first, as Cash led Hlasek by a set, 5-1 and 40-0 before being broken twice and scraping through in the end 6-4, 7-5.

"I was particularly pleased with that victory because Jakob is a good grass-court player," Cash said. "I can't ever remember winning two matches in the same day, let alone beating two seeds."

Cash today meets the defending champion, Stefan Edberg, who overcame the stout challenge of Wally Masur, 6-4, 6-7, 6-4.

Predictably, there was an immense scrap between Brad Gilbert and David Wheaton, who are old foes. Equally predictably, Gilbert, who had won the previous five matches, including a bad-tempered affair in the Grand Slam Cup, came through 6-4, 5-7, 11-9 in just over three hours.

First round: D. Nergis (N) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; G. Ferreira (F) 6-2, 6-3, 6-2; W. Ferreira (A) 6-2, 6-3, 6-2. Second round: D. Nergis (N) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; G. Ferreira (F) 6-2, 6-3, 6-2; W. Ferreira (A) 6-2, 6-3, 6-2.

Third round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Fourth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Fifth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Sixth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Seventh round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Eighth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Ninth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Tenth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Eleventh round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Twelfth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Thirteenth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Fourteenth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Fifteenth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Sixteenth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Seventeenth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Eighteenth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Nineteenth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Twentieth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Twenty-first round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Twenty-second round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Twenty-third round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Twenty-fourth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Twenty-fifth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Twenty-sixth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Twenty-seventh round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Twenty-eighth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Twenty-ninth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Thirtieth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Thirty-first round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Thirty-second round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Thirty-third round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Thirty-fourth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Thirty-fifth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Thirty-sixth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

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Thirty-ninth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Fortieth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Forty-first round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Forty-second round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Forty-third round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Forty-fourth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

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Fiftieth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Fifty-first round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Fifty-second round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Fifty-third round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Fifty-fourth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

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Fifty-ninth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Sixtieth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Sixty-first round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Sixty-second round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Sixty-third round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

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Sixty-ninth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Seventieth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Seventy-first round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Seventy-second round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Seventy-third round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

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Seventy-sixth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Seventy-seventh round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Seventy-eighth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Seventy-ninth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Eightieth round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Eighty-first round: S. Matsuo (J) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; G. Pozzi (I) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

FRIDAY JUNE 12 1992

Taylor alters his plans as his team's European championship campaign opens

England held to goalless draw

England 0
Denmark 0



FROM STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN MALMÖ

SO MUCH for sweeping changes. Graham Taylor, England's manager, abandoned his plans for a progressive sweeper formation when England began their European championship programme with a disappointing draw against Denmark here last night.

The one predictable element of Taylor's line-ups has been their unpredictability. An hour before the kick-off he revealed that he was to reunite a pair of former Leicester City colleagues in his attack. The choice of Gary Lineker was obvious; that of Alan Smith was not.

Apart from being brought in for five games before and after last summer's tour, Smith had not appeared to be a part of Taylor's plans. The Arsenal centre forward's only active contribution during the last four months of extensive experimentation was briefly as a substitute in Hungary.

Neil Webb was left on the substitutes' bench as England's manager was forced by the loss of three significant members of his squad to alter his plans. Instead of introducing a progressive formation, he reverted to old ways. By contrast, Denmark followed the usual continental style of defending with a sweeper, Olsen.

Apart from a brief period of anxiety, England were not stretched throughout a first half when the Danes had the bright evening sunlight shining in their eyes.

Only when Keown committed an inelegant foul on Povlsen and when Curle was twice embarrassingly and worryingly beaten for pace was the composure of the defence shaken. Curle, the understudy for Stevens, was rightly booked for his second sin, a sharp tug on Andersen's shirt.

The belated replacements for Yugoslavia were short of individual brilliance and imagination. So were England, apart from the intrusions of Platt, running as usual from the deep. Smith was guarded by Nielsen and Lineker by Christofte.

Platt bursting into the gaps between them might have given England an early lead but he miscued from close

Group two
CIS v Germany (Norfolk, 7.15)
Holland v Scotland (Gothenburg, 4.15)
Remaining fixtures: Group one: Sunday: France v England (Malmö, 4.15); Sweden v Denmark (Stockholm, 7.15); Wednesday: France v Denmark (Malmö, 7.15); Sweden v England (Stockholm, 7.15); Group two: Monday: Holland v CIS (Gothenburg, 7.15); Scotland v Germany (4.15 Norfolk); Thursday: Holland v Germany (Gothenburg, 7.15); Scotland v CIS (Norfolk, 7.15).

range after Palmer had nodded back a corner in his direction.

Nor until Merson emerged from a sluggish and nervous opening did the threat to the goal increase. Twice he cut in menacingly from the left flank and on the first occasion, having accelerated away from his pursuers he flicked the ball into the path of his club colleague, Smith. His side footed attempt was athletically turned past a post by Denmark's giant goalkeeper.

On the second occasion Merson spoiled his run by shooting so inaccurately that he conceded a throw-in. It was to be a familiar theme. Too often England marred their build-ups by misdirecting the final pass.

Nor did they right an old wrong. Taylor has persistently accused his players of failing to take the opportunity to shoot, to "hurt the opposing goalkeeper", as he puts it. Apart from Smith's prod, the first direct strike, from long range by Steven, was after 40 minutes.

Nevertheless the Danes were no less enterprising. Early in the second half, an effort from Jensen swerved narrowly wide of the angle of post and bar. Minutes later he curled a cross which concerned Woods as it veered across his goal.

Before Daley replaced Curle after injecting some much-needed pace into England's challenge Christensen almost put Denmark ahead with a volley. At the other end the Aston Villa extended Schmeichel to the limit with a left-footed drive.

Yet, midway through the second half, the pressure a defence now guarded on the right flank by Steven, mount-



Getting shirty: Keith Curle, the England defender, gets a firm hold of Henrik Andersen, of Denmark, during the teams' opening game of the European championship in the Malmö Stadium last night

Adams waits for go-ahead

FROM STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN MALMÖ

ed. Jensen, after exchanging with Christensen, beat Woods and his shot rolled against the foot of a post and back into the arms of a grateful England goalkeeper.

Webb was subsequently brought on in place of Merson, whose contribution had faded, to add experience and security in midfield.

Denmark: P Schmeichel (Manchester United); J Sivebak (Morsø); K Nielsen (Aarhus); L Olsen (Tranås); H Andersen (Copenhagen); K Christofte (Borussia Dortmund); J Jensen (Brøndby); K Villot (Brøndby); B Laudrup (Bayer Mönchengladbach); F Povlsen (Borussia Dortmund); B Christensen (Schkeibitz); K Curle (Manchester City); S Pearce (Nottingham Forest); M Keown (Everton); D Walker (Gillingham); D Platt (Sheff Wed); S Ståven (Molde); C Palmer (Sheff Wed); P Merson (Arsenal); A Smith (Aston Villa); G Lineker (Tottenham Hotspur). Referee: J Blomqvist (SWE).

MARK Wright was examined by a Uefa doctor in Stockholm yesterday and it is feared that he will be unable to take any part in the tournament. He flew home after his medical appointment and is unlikely to return.

Europe's governing body has already allowed England to replace two injured players. John Barnes and Andy Sinton and Gary Stevens with Keith Curle. An appeal for a third substitute has been made and the verdict from Uefa is expected to be delivered today.

Graham Taylor, England's manager, has already confirmed that the standby player will be Tony Adams, who is preparing for his wedding in five weeks. He could travel to Malmö in time to be at least in contention for a place in the side against France on Sunday.

Adams was in a similar position before the 1990 World Cup but, on that occasion, Wright, whose availability was again in question, proved himself sufficiently fit. He went on to play a significant part in the tournament.

Although Adams' fortunes may change, he is unlikely to take an active part in the European championship. Four years ago Bobby Robson predicted that he would be a regular international for a decade and that he was also destined to be the captain.

Yet he was dropped after the visit to Saudi Arabia and has since largely been overlooked. Only if the sequence of injuries is drastically extended could Adams realistically hope to resume his international career in the next week or two.

Formation misses the mark

DAVID MILLER
IN MALMÖ

The football coaches, including Graham Taylor, would have you believe that the game is a science. At its best, of course, it is as much an art. Last night, the England team was at pains to find elements of either.

Having been in charge for close on two seasons, Taylor sent his team out for its opening match with a formation, 4-4-2, that on his own admission has not brought England success for a long while and is out of date. It looked particularly so on this occasion, and left many question marks against both selection and performance.

A sharper team than the Danes, I suspect, would have punished England on several occasions and, as it was, in the last half-hour Jensen and Laudrup were unlucky not to score.

Too often England were to be seen booting the ball into touch for want of the ability to do anything more constructive. Yet how the manager could revert to a backline of four with two central markers was as baffling to spectators as it must have been for the team, whom the manager has been attempting to convince of the necessity of playing with a sweeper.

There were many times last night when the rear-guard quartet were doing little other than marking space, confronted by a single Danish attacker, Christensen. Yet stranger of all was the selection of Smith to partner Lineker for the first time since the second qualifying match against Turkey.

Smith does not look a footballer, at this level, when the ball is in the air. Yet now there was nobody to cross and give him a chance to pressurise a suspect defence.

This was particularly deficient in the first half, playing away from the sun when Schmeichel, in the Danish goal, was in difficulty against high balls. Standing on the edge of the penalty area approaching half time, his shadow stretched back into his own goal net.

Merson, playing an up-and-down role much as Coppell used to do, chose mostly to run in the last third of the field, and when

he penetrated the penalty area he consistently wasted possession. Yet, when Daley came on as an additional attacker midway through the second half, the England formation was now similar to that of Ron Greenwood's 14 years ago.

Daley momentarily frightened the Danes, but the threat was not to last. As for most of the second half, it was the Danes who called the tune.

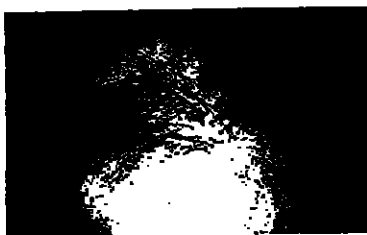
A part from Schmeichel's problems with the sun, England's penetration came primarily through lone efforts by either Lineker or Platt. With the Danes' marking in midfield less than obsessive, Platt found many opportunities to break forward, but could not find time and space to get aim on the target.

It was, overall, a disappointing display by England, lacking in guile, the players seeming disoriented. That is hardly surprising, given the number of changes forced upon them by injuries and the manager's continuing fluctuation in policy. There were times late in the game when England's defence was in desperate straits, as when Walker was lucky not to concede a penalty in the closing minute for blocking Christensen off the ball. If England are to progress they will need something substantially better than this, but it will all be snatching at straws. If they are unlucky in the matter of injuries, they were undoubtedly lucky once more on the run of play.



Smith: aerial threat

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MATCH FACTS

In Malmö. Att: 26,365. Ref: J Blankenstein (Holl)

HT: 0-0. ENGLAND 0 DENMARK 0
Scorers: -
Bookings: Keown 9, Curle 10, Daley 88 Sivebak 83
Subs: Daley 61 (Curle), Webb 70 (Merson)

	ENGLAND	DENMARK
Shots (on target/total)	7 19	1 9
Corners (left/right)	4 4	2 1
Crosses (left/right)	18 32	10 10
Free kicks/pens against	12 -	12 -
Offsides	4 -	3 -
Possession (gained/lost)	30 88	28 88

	ENGLAND (4-4-2)	DENMARK (4-4-2)
Goalkeeper	C Woods	P Schmeichel
Defence	K Curle, S Pearce, M Keown, D Walker	J Sivebak, K Nielsen, L Olsen, H Andersen
Midfield	D Platt, T Steven, P Merson, A Smith, A Daley, N Webb	K Christofte, J Jensen, K Villot, F Povlsen, B Laudrup
Forwards	-	-

Compiled by Julian Desborough

Supporters are well behaved

Malmö: Sensitive policing and a small turn-out of England supporters brought calm before and during the game (John Goodbody writes). Six known English hooligans were barred from entering Sweden: the local police arrested five people for minor offences and two others were fined £120 each for attempting to smuggle in tear-gas canisters.

It was a welcome change from England's last two appearances in this championship. In 1980, the game against Belgium was interrupted for 30 minutes when police fired teargas into the rioting England followers, and four years ago, there was widespread violence in Germany.

Only 3,000 England supporters attended, the fewest for the final stages of the World Cup or European championship on the continent for more than 20 years.

Dutch dismiss Scotland

FROM RODDY FORSYTH IN GOTHENBURG

IN THE Ullevi Stadium this afternoon, Scotland will attempt to assault the final stages of the European championship for the first time in their history. Their opening contest against Holland, the defending champions and popular choice to take the title again this time, will determine whether the Scots have an extended stay or a prompt departure.

A defeat would put success in a formidable group virtually out of Scotland's reach and beyond the Scottish camp there has been little consideration given to any outcome other than a Dutch victory. The widespread assumption that Holland are virtually guaranteed both points may even have pervaded the Dutch camp, where few of the players appear to know the names of more than two or three of their Scottish counterparts.

There is certainly little respect for the nature of Scottish domestic football. "In Scotland it is all kick and

rush," Marco van Basten said. Rinus Michels, the Dutch manager, said yesterday: "We know that Scotland can give any team difficulties if they play with pride and fire, but you need more than that at this level."

In nine meetings between the countries Scotland have won five and Holland two. The Dutch seem to be peaking at precisely the correct moment, but Andy Roxburgh said: "Sweden was the form team coming into the last World Cup finals because they hadn't lost a game in two years: they lost all three of their matches in the finals. In the last European Championship England had the pedigree, but they were whacked in all their games."

"The Dutch to me can be a brilliant team in friendly games when they play exhibition football, but in the finals you must ally technical brilliance with spirit and aggression. Last time they proved they had the lot, but now it is up to us to test them once

more and if we have enough in the reserve tank after a long, gruelling Scottish season then I think we can surprise a lot of people."

There is unlikely to be any novelty about the Scottish selection, however. Although McLaren, of Heart of Midlothian, had been plucked from the under-21 ranks because of his aptitude for man-marking the 20-year-old defender will not be asked to shadow van Basten, as seemed likely at one stage. Roxburgh will rely on experience to steady the Scots during a critical passage.

Can the Scots really overcome a team of all the talents such as the Dutch possess? Probably not, but a draw is a possibility if Scotland can get behind Koeman and turn the three-man defensive arrangement around him. As Roxburgh put it yesterday: "The Dutch specialise in camping in your half and we have to find a way to stop them doing that. If we succeed in that we have a real chance."

Durie adds Tauziat to list of highly prized scalps

By BARRY WOOD

JO DURIE extended her extraordinary run of success yesterday by defeating Nathalie Tauziat, the No. 2 seed, to reach the quarter-finals of the Dow Classic at Edgbaston.

With the exception of Martina Navratilova, Durie, aged 31, is the oldest player in the top 50, but she is increasingly defying the years. Totally free of the nagging injuries that hindered her ambitions for a long period, the British No. 1 has produced some exceptional victories over the past two years.

She reached the Newport final in July 1990, where she lost 7-5 in the third set to Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, beat Zina Garrison in Los Angeles last August, and Helena Sukova at the US Open. A semi-final finish in St Petersburg came next, and two weeks ago at the French Open a win over Anke Huber, the world No. 9, on clay, her least favoured surface, marked a new high in Durie's renaissance.

Yesterday her 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 win over Tauziat, the world No. 14, was as well-earned as her other victories. She remained composed when under pressure, overcame the considerable handicap of not being able to serve particularly well, and produced some superb shots at crucial stages.

Another aspect of Durie's game that frequently impresses these days is her fitness and mobility. Her reactions are sharp, and she covers the net well.

Durie said Tauziat's ability to return serve well put pres-

sure on her to get the ball in play first time. Often, she failed to do so.

"All through my career my serve hasn't been a consistent shot. But I have to look at things in a positive light, because I was able to win today even though I wasn't serving well", she said.

Shirli-Ann Siddall was brought back to reality as she was defeated 6-3, 6-3 by Zina Garrison, the No. 1 seed. Her application could not be faulted, but she was hurried into errors and let down by an erratic serve.

"I knew I had to get my first serve in and was rushing, trying to hit the ball harder and double faulting. And she's so fast. I had no time at all," Siddall said.

Durie did not provide the only surprise of the day. Natalia Zvereva, the No. 5 seed and last year's finalist, was beaten 1-6, 7-6, 6-4 by Andrea Temesvári. The Hungarian now plays Durie.

Gigi Fernandez, the No. 3 seed, lost 6-4, 6-4 to Larisa Savchenko, and Yayuk Basuki, the No. 8 seed, was beaten 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 by Jenny

Byrne, of Australia, who is being coached by Paul McNamee.

Another Australian, Rennae Stubbs, worried Brenda Schultz, the No. 6 seed, before going down 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

RESULTS: Third round: J Durie (GB) bt N Tauziat (FR) 5-7, 6-3, 6-4; L McNamee (USA) bt K Po (USA) 6-4, 6-3; J Byrne (AUS) bt Y Zvereva (URS) 5-7, 4-6, 7-6; B Schultz (GER) bt R Stubbs (AUS) 6-2, 4-6, 7-5; A Temesvári (HUN) bt N Zvereva (URS) 1-6, 7-6, 6-4; L Savchenko (URS) bt G Fernandez (USA) 6-3, 6-4; C Garrison (USA) bt S Siddall (GB) 6-3, 6-3; F Basuki (JPN) bt M Jaggard (AUS) 6-4, 6-1.



HEALTH, p8
Nicholas
Soames tucks
into his new
ministry



LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY JUNE 12 1992

MOTORING p9
Tiny titans
to end
the traffic
jam blues



True marriage admits impediment

The hardest things for a relationship to overcome are not only private misery but also adverse public scrutiny

Forever is a very long time. At its happiest, the intimate companionship of marriage is "the best thing life has to give". In the words of Bertrand Russell (who was a rotten husband, married four times). At its saddest, witnessed at the Expo concert in Seville, it presents the painful spectacle of two people who are emotionally miles apart.

You do not have to be a professional royal watcher or a vulture to notice such things. It is true that journalists do not, any more than poets, librettists and novelists, write much of marriages that last, or of couples who rub along together in harmony. To adapt Tolstoy, happy couples are all alike, and do not lend themselves to front page coverage. It is unhappy ones that are unmistakable, especially if they are on permanent public display, when it is hardly "intrusion" to remark upon them. What reporter would stampede to John Osborne's front door, if he had remained amiably married to Pamela Lane for the past 40 years?

"Call it a good marriage," wrote Robert Graves in his poem of that name. "For no one ever questioned / Her warmth, his masculinity ... They never fought in public. / They acted circum-spectly / And faced the world with pride. / Thus the hazards of their love-bed / Were none of our damned business. - / Till as jumbled we sat on / Two deaths by suicide."

As Nietzsche observed it is not the lack of love, but lack of friendship, that makes unhappy marriages. After the first delirium, even the most passionate romances evolve into friendship, and when that goes, it is very hard to see what can be salvaged. Relate, the marriage guidance people, pose a question to those thinking of marrying but having doubts: "Would you want to be friends with this person, if you didn't love them?"

A strong friendship within marriage is the most resilient relationship on earth. Of the marriages that over the years have come under the merciless spotlight — the Profumo, the Archers, the Parkinsons, Leo and Jilly Cooper's, and most recently the Spencers' brother and sister-in-law of the Princess of Wales — it can be said that they are admirable examples of restoration after damage. It is the hardest thing in the world to overcome not only private misery but adverse public exposure. They all knew what it is like to be bruised, stricken, gossiped about. Jilly Cooper says that it is like having a handicapped child: "It is always there, for ever after. People survive it, and marriages do stay together, but it is never forgotten by anybody, least of all the press."

But their lives are never the same again. "Marriage under the spotlight is bloody," Mrs Cooper says. "And seeing it all in the press is awful — but not as awful as what went before." What is curious, and a dilemma that Lord McGreggor's commission must recognise, is that sometimes the participants in the drama are using the press to communicate with each other and express their hurt. After the furore is over — bloodied, smiling bravely, but never as happy again — what can a scrutinised couple do? We all know, privately, many splendid marriages. A couple get their teeth and reflect that they have a shared life, house, children, dogs, habits, memories: so they make the best of it. But they don't have to read about themselves, as



Public face, private stress of a marriage that has fascinated the world: the Prince and Princess of Wales, who is patron of Relate, the marriage guidance service

high-profile show business couples, politicians and royals inevitably do. Mary Archer's dreadful year, when her famous appearance in the witness box established her as a public personality, was the making of her. If she could get through that, she felt, she could face anything. "I do feel that the steel entered my soul," she told me. "And it has stayed there." The self-control and mental composure required to present a happy face to the world after such a trial is not to be contemplated lightly. Last summer the Archers celebrated, with lavish pride, their 25th wedding anniversary.

We are accustomed to reading about aristocratic marriages (the Duff Coopers, the Macmillans) that disregarded convention, but lasted. Nigel Nicolson published *Portrait of a Marriage* in 1971, about his mother, Vita Sackville-West's, long affair with Violet Trefusis. Victoria Glendinning's biography further revealed Vita's insatiable appetite for new women, matched only by her husband, Harold Nicolson's, for new men. Yet throughout these adventures, they wrote to one another — sometimes thrice daily — protesting their love and dependence.

Philip Ziegler, in his life of the Mountbattens, concluded that in spite of their infidelities, "what kept them together was above all their belief in the family and their conviction that they were a unique partnership, that life could never offer the same possibilities and the same excitement in other company."

"It's not my idea of marriage," Mr Ziegler told me at the time, "but if it suits both parties and the world without victimising one of them, good luck to them."

When the Churchills were examined recently in television documentaries and in the account by John Pearson, Clementine was portrayed as being cold, neurotic, jealous and argumentative. But in a spirited defence entitled, "The truth about my grandparents (and why they slept apart)", Emma Soames remembered, as a child, watching her grandparents gazing at one another lovingly, forever stroking each other's hands and embracing. "They did indeed inhabit the sunlit uplands," she wrote. Such was the gap between the public myth and the private reality. The Churchills

were Edwardians, she pointed out: it would have been surprising if they had not kept separate bedrooms: they nevertheless produced five children. It could not be called a tranquil relationship, but love never failed, as was plain from their constant notes and letters: after 50 years of marriage, Churchill was writing to Clementine: "My Darling One: This is only to give you my fondest love and kisses a hundred times repeated."

"Since they were both long dead, the worst that could happen was a certain amount of spinning in the grave," Miss Soames says. "It is hurtful only to the family, who remember things differently. While they were alive, nobody dreamt of writing about their sleeping arrangements."

The playwright Enid Bagnold and her husband, Sir Roderick Jones, the diminutive Reuters chief, kept separate beds and had separate liaisons throughout their married life. You could not have imagined two people who annoyed each other more, as Sir Roderick himself said, yet they regarded their marriage as the greatest success. They would slip little notes under the other's bedroom door when they came home from the arms of lovers: "Twenty to two am. Married life has a lot of charm. Don't forget that, when you feel depressed about Cecile [his current amour]." On their 20th anniversary: "Oh my beloved companion ... what fun



we have had ... I couldn't live without you," she wrote. Behind their curtains were "the entrancing gossip of bedroom life, the crackles of annoyance, the candlelit battleground, the truces, the fun, the love, the rage."

Such accounts have a distinctly period flavour, because what most of us seek in marriage today is the perfect union. Care Haste writes in her forthcoming book *Rules of Desire*, subtitled *Sex in Britain*, that modern couples' impossibly high expectations place a new stress on marriage. "When partners were asked to be 'everything' to each other — lovers, friends, mutual therapists — and marriage was

required to be the closest and deepest relationship in life, it was increasingly likely to fail to live up to the emotional demands placed on it." Ms Haste is so determined not to be defined by her own marriage to Melvyn Bragg that she has expunged all reference to him on her dustjacket.

But she is right: a long and contented marriage looks harder than ever to achieve, which is why queues form at Relate. The first thing the counsellors note is the body language of new clients. Do they move the chairs apart, and stare out of the window in opposite directions, avoiding the other's glance? Or one dissolves in tears, does the other lean forward and hold a hand? The outward shows of disaffection are distressingly visible.

The Princess of Wales, who is patron of Relate, has watched counselling sessions. She has spoken of having seen the tears, the pain and heartbreak and "my heart goes out to them all", as she said in her recent speech when presenting an award to the Family of the Year. We also know that people who gravitate towards Relate as counsellors have often themselves known divorce in childhood (as did the princess) and want to understand more about relationships, and therefore about themselves. "The princess has a highly developed ability to get in touch with other people's pain," says Zelda West-

Meads, the spokeswoman for Relate.

The breakdown of trust in marriage is its toughest hurdle, even if it is just the failure to give support when it is needed. "If trust is a circle, there will always be a missing link," Mrs West-Meads says. "There is always loss. After it, a relationship will never be as good again. For most people, infidelity is the ultimate betrayal. It is not just the fact of thinking of your partner making love with someone else. It's about deception; the fact that they may have shared candlelit dinners while you were doing humdrum things with the children; the fact that they may have loved each other, and shared jokes and laughter. That is very hurtful: it is something people really agonise over, as much as the sexual element."

Mrs West-Meads thinks staying married is probably getting more difficult. "I am not of the school that thinks divorce is easy. For most people I see, it really is agonising. A man may lose not just his wife but his home, and day to day contact with his children, and his chief source of friendship. Women can talk to their friends, but for many men, all he has is a squash partner: 'How are you old chap?' 'I'm fine, thank you.' But if around you there is quite a lot of divorce, people may not try as hard as they did a generation ago."

"More people stay married out of habit than out of love. But that depends on their being able to reach a situation without endless destructive arguments. I spend a lot of time counselling people about whether they want to settle for a marriage that isn't what they'd hoped for but is acceptable, or whether they really want to step out of the marriage and into the dark."

But trying to judge the marriages of others makes us all fallible. By the time Drusilla Beyfus's book *The English Marriage* came out, several of her interviewees had divorced. She concluded that there were no global generalisations to be made. "It seems to me that in marriage people speak for themselves alone. The marital tie remains the most personal, volatile and unclassifiable of human bonds."

You could list elements such as

"When marriage was required to be the deepest relationship in life, it was likely to fail to live up to the demands placed on it"

personal contentment, mutual affection, tenderness, a tolerance of the other's idiosyncrasies, a pleasurable sex life, a sense of sharing: but not all good marriages involve all of these, and some appear to thrive on conflict.

Which is why the best bonds most about marriage tend to be wry and ironical. Agatha Christie, who was married to Sir Max Mallowan, the distinguished Egyptologist, told Beverley Nichols: "You know, Mr Nichols, every woman should marry an archaeologist, because she grows increasingly attractive to him as she grows increasingly to resemble a ruin."

A most subjective thing, marriage. Those for whom it works wish for nothing more than what Cyril Connolly described as marriage's particular charm, the dialogue: "The permanent conversation of two people who talk over everything and everyone until death breaks the record." Shared commitment, the mysterious subsuming of egos, the fierce loyalty which only the protectiveness of parenthood can match; being liberated to be absolutely yourself; a foundation from which to cope with almost anything: these are the great glories of a sound marriage.

Glennys Kinnock, interviewed by Hume Davies recently, described how she and Neil had driven back to London from his Iswyn constituency on election night, "not talking much". Complicit silence is a very important part of married life. In *The Power of Love* Celia Haddon wrote of her happy second marriage: "I think of it as a close friendship rather than some permanent romance ... a kind of shelter against the unhappiness of the outside world, a comfort and a consolation."

The peaceable plateau of middle-aged marriage is the enviable stage celebrated at silver weddings: the Prince of Wales attended one this week, of his kinswoman Queen Margrethe of Denmark. Golden and even diamond weddings, such as that celebrated by Lord and Lady Longford last November, are an occasion for real jubilation. To observe the octogenarian Longfords out in public is to witness complete tolerance and affection. Lord Longford says: "I never think about our marriage at all. It's rather like asking how I manage to breathe."

His wife says the secret is to be a marriageable person. "Some people are and some are not. We both are, so it couldn't help but work." Neither has ever had a dull moment in the other's company. And perhaps that is the great secret. Who knows? Could Abelard and Heloise, or Romeo and Juliet, have survived scrutiny after 60 years? To reach the stage of contemplating the roses, lingering at the table for a long evening, driving along in companionable silence, laughing at the same jokes, being amused by the same anecdotes, reading in bed, and always wanting to be together: happy are those who have all this. And to be obliged to witness the painful obverse makes us truly pity those in the public eye who seem undeniably incapable, in their present partnership, of achieving it; and to wish them a happy solution.

TOMORROW

Home for the holidays: the simple joys of British beaches



Smiling through: (from left) Ann and Cecil Parkinson, Leo and Jilly Cooper, Mary and Jeffrey Archer



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Your Private Airline

Alison Beckett tells the romantic story behind an exceptional show of ceramics in London this weekend

Tuileries touch in Teesdale

Teesdale, County Durham, is an unlikely setting for a French chateau, let alone one purpose-built as a museum, chock-a-block with a vast array of continental art treasures. Nor would one expect to find a blue-blooded scandal there. But the Bowes Museum, near the market town of Barnard Castle, was the dream of a glamorous Parisian actress last century, and it is a little-known but very decorative skeleton in the cupboard of the Queen Mother's family.

On Wednesday the museum's centenary was marked with a local carnival procession of replica papier-mâché artworks, and an exquisite loan display from the Museum will be one of the main attractions of the International Ceramics Fair & Seminar which begins in London today.

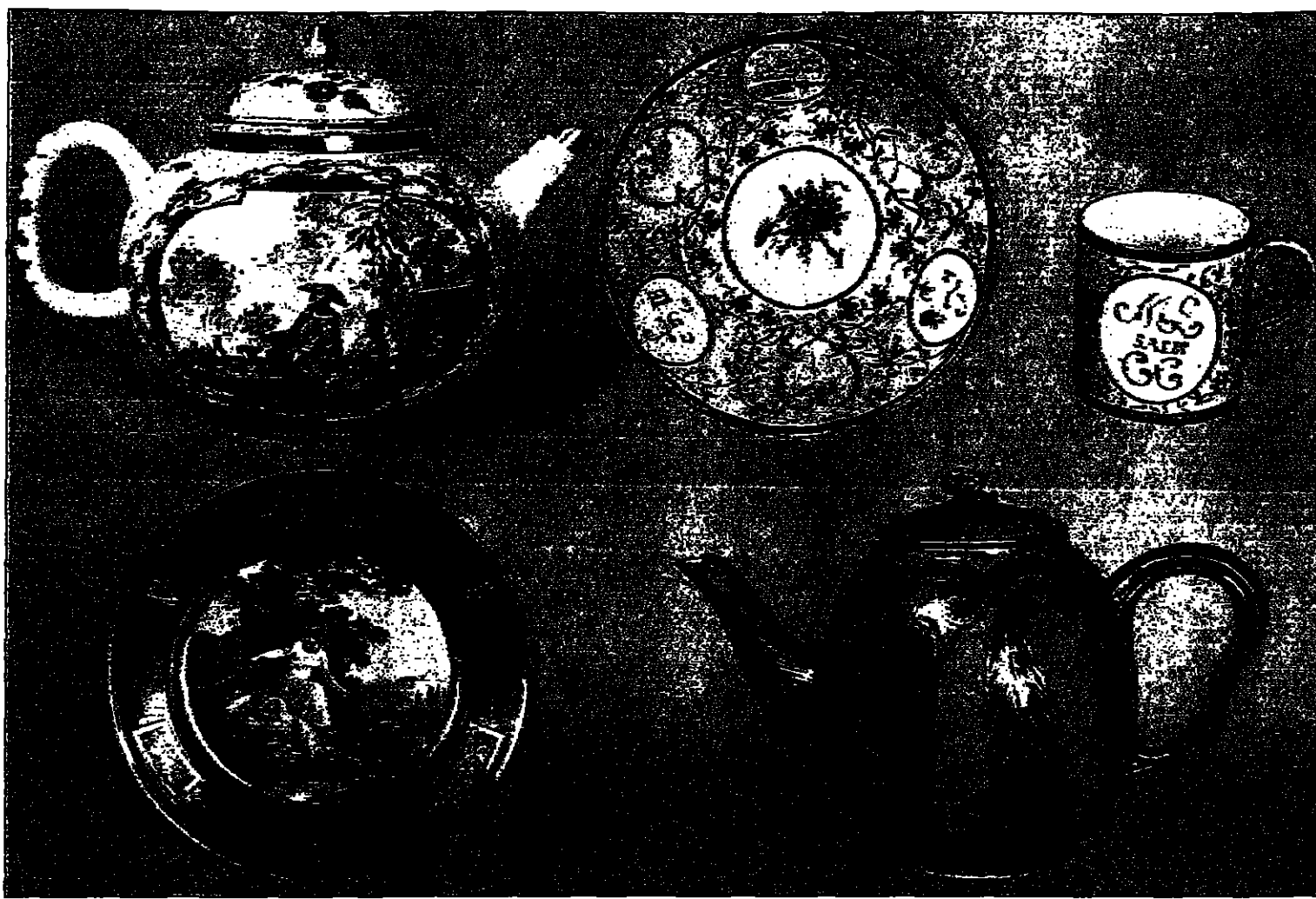
Ceramics were a passion of "Mlle Delorme", as she was known on the stage — her real name was Benoîte Josephine Coffin-Chewillier — and her husband John Bowes, who fell in love with her after buying the theatre where she acted in Montmartre. Bowes, the illegitimate son of an English earl, was a successful businessman, MP and racehorse owner; he had fled to Paris in 1847 to escape the stigma of his birth. For he was ostracised by British high society even though his father, the colourful 10th Earl of Strathmore and elder brother of the present Queen Mother's great grandfather, had hurriedly married his mistress, an employee on his estate, only hours before he died.

Bowes and Josephine, as she preferred to be called, could have lived out their lives in comfortable oblivion. Instead the couple began collecting pottery and porcelain — more than 3,000 pieces from the 16th century onwards — as they holidayed lavishly around Europe.

Indeed, their collection seems to celebrate a life in social exile, and blows an exquisite raspberry at the British establishment of the day. A parallel with the Duchess of Windsor's lifelong hoarding of superb jewellery comes irresistibly to mind.

The pieces on show at this weekend's Ceramics Fair, predominantly French, include one of the finest groups of Sèvres in the world, from the time when the factory's chief client and salesman was Louis XV himself.

Josephine, the daughter of a clock-maker and an aspiring painter as well as an actress, hankered to become an art patron. So, when they had no children, she proposed the museum as a memorial to her



From Teesside to Piccadilly (clockwise from top left): Meissen teapot, circa 1730; Sèvres cup and saucer, 1788; Sèvres teapot of 1758; Plate painted with a mythological scene, Paris circa 1810, decorated by Halley. All at the Park Lane Hotel from today until Monday

husband on his home ground. To set the project in motion she sold the Chateau Dubarry which he had given her as a wedding present (formerly a gift from Louis XV to his last mistress), and quickly became known as a mean negotiator, rarely spending more than £10 on a single item.

The museum, from its architecture to its content and its decentralised site, was based entirely on French example. Josephine wanted to provide a collection of fine and decorative arts such as Teesside had never seen before.

The north of England had few museums anyway, and most at that time specialised in natural history and archaeology. Art institutions tended to concentrate on temporary exhibitions.

As a result, she and her husband created the most important decorative arts collection outside the Victoria & Albert Museum: today it is housed in 30 galleries including 13 period rooms. Sadly, neither founder lived to see the museum opened to the public on June 10, 1892.

By going against fashion they acquired such treasures as an El Greco for £8, and by buying in bulk they established a unique textile collection — much of it amassed unseen, by the metre. The Second Empire period furniture, mostly from Josephine's chateau and regarded as an embarrassment by the museum's early trustees, is now acknowledged as the best collection in England.

The loan exhibition now in

London, devised by ceramics curator Howard Coats (co-author of a book celebrating the centenary) is especially characteristic of Josephine's taste for small and delicate pieces, from the porcelain figures to the Sèvres cups and saucers inscribed with vows of everlasting love and a unique 1758 teapot exotically decorated with peacock feathers on a rose Pompadour ground, a difficult colour to achieve and perhaps aptly named after a royal mistress.

Such Sèvres porcelain is now inordinately rare, costing anything between £1,000 and £50,000 or more — although a number (not from the Bowes Collection) will be on sale at the fair, among them a selection of 18th-century cups, saucers and jugs from a private collection acquired by fair organiser Brian Haughton.

And the Bowes family scandal has a happy ending. The Queen Mother, as patron of the Friends of The Bowes Museum, is now one of its biggest fans and has lent many of her own outfits for a centenary exhibition later this month, including her wedding dress and the celebrated white wardrobe from her 1938 state visit to France.

● The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, London W1 (Information: 071-734 5491), June 12-15.

● Royal Style — The Queen Mother's Wardrobe, The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, County Durham (0833 690606), June 27 — September 13.

● The Bowes Museum, published this week by Scala Books at £12.95.

● Richard Cork's weekly galleries review appears on page 4

CINEMA: INTERVIEW

No longer an enfant but still in Paradis

David Robinson meets Marcel Carné, the inveterate French film-maker who is still working in his eighties

Older reference books insist that Marcel Carné was born in 1903. A more likely date now appears to be August 18, 1906, but the doubt remains: the price of Carné's own years of secrecy on the matter.

Either way — 85 or 88 — this is an impressive time of life to direct a feature film with a budget of FF52 million (£5.3m). Carné begins principal photography next month on a Franco-German-Italian coproduction: *Mouche*. Adapted from de Maupassant, the story is about five young friends who fall in love with the same girl during a holiday on the Seine, in 1875. The *femme fatale* is to be played by 15-year-old Virginie Ledoyen. Carné says that the visual style of the film will be influenced by the compositions and colours of the Impressionists and Renoir and Monet are walk-on characters.

Carné last made a feature film — *La Bible* — 15 years ago. In the interim he has been directing spectacular image-and-sound extravaganzas in Lourdes, Rome and Martinique.

He has been in pictures for 65 years. In 1928 he became assistant to the director Jacques Feyder, and in 1929 made his directorial debut with a documentary, *Ngengt, Eldorado du Dimanche*.

His lasting fame is as director of the best-loved of all French films, *Les Enfants du Paradis*. This was, however, only one of an unbroken run of films which Carné made in the Thirties and Forties and which have become a part of cinema legend and the French cultural patrimony.

The titles are instantly evocative: *Le Quai des Brumes*, *L'Hôtel du Nord*, *Le Jour se*

lève, *Les Visiteurs du Soir* and *Les Portes de la Nuit*. These films, with their "poetic fatalism", reflect the changing psychology of the nation through a decade that saw the Front Populaire, the second world war and occupation, and the postwar adjustment.

The great Carné films were all scripted by the scenarist-poet Jacques Prévert. For both artists, this creative collaboration produced their finest work. Carné's craftsmanship and unsparring demand for perfection — the legacy, perhaps, of early training as a cabinet maker — complemented Prévert's instinctual approach.

After their collaboration ended, Carné's reputation declined. His classical style and old-fashioned professionalism were anathema to the critics and film-makers of the Sixties' New Wave; and he found himself an outsider in the modern French cinema.

He has lived long enough to see a historical reversal. Today the survival of French cinema appears to depend on the few glamorous, big-budget, exportable productions such as *Jean de Florette* and *Cyrano de Bergerac*, and on the sort of classical film craft that Carné stubbornly defended in defiance of changing fashion.

He was at the recent Cannes Festival to promote *Mouche* — tiny but stocky, bouncy, dapper and talkative. Whatever his age, he did not look it.

In one respect at least, however, his brave determination to move with the times must chill the hearts of his admirers. He has approved the "colourisation" of *Les Enfants du Paradis* as well as the other classic films whose magic lay in their haunting black and white images. "I like novelty", he says cheerfully.



Carné: is he 85 or 88?

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Towering above a material world

London Galleries: Shirazeh Houshiary's startling exhibition of sculptures at the Lisson Gallery, and the eerie installations of the international biennale Edge 92, reviewed by Richard Cork

Viewed from the outside, the largest sculpture in Shirazeh Houshiary's exhibition could hardly be darker or more severe. Slabs of sombre aluminium stretch up from the floor to the gallery ceiling, as remote and forbidding as Richard Serra at his most austere. But then we notice the gap in this awesome facade, and realise that Houshiary is inviting us to enter the sculpture and explore its mysterious interior.

Narrow enough to make the more corpulent visitors wonder if they can squeeze in, the gap leads through to a wholly different experience. Once inside, the hard assertion of material bulk drops away. We find ourselves standing in a burnished, copper-lined chamber. The deep orange glow provides warmth after the coldness of the exterior, and the glass ceiling above ensures that light seeps into the tall interior passage.

If we walk to the far end of the passage, though, our reflections in the copper walls grow faint. The glow envelops us, and the entire space seems to be suffused with an amber mist. If the interior resembles a burial vault, there is no threat of claustrophobia or extinction. Quite the reverse: the copper induces a feeling of beneficence as the walls close round us in a protective embrace.

Houshiary calls her sculpture *Isthmus*, a title that suggests the idea of an intermediary space connecting two different states. By encouraging us to move from the outside to inside, she sets up the possibility of a journey from the body to the spirit. The finite world, represented by the dour and unyielding aluminium exterior, gives way to the infinite vastness of the copper within. *Isthmus* asks us to contemplate a state of being no longer dependent on corporeal solidity.

By using sculpture to move from materiality towards a spiritual realm, Houshiary's work proclaims links with the concerns of Anish Kapoor. Like him, she confronted the challenge of fusing a non-Western upbringing with the culture of her adopted country. Having lived in Persia until the age of eight, and later studied at Chelsea School of Art, Houshiary still feels off the world she left behind in Shiraz. But her art is informed by an alert awareness of Western sculpture as well, and the balance between the two gives her Lisson Gallery show a singular tension.

The references to angels and beating wings in her previous exhibition have been replaced, here, by the stillness of architectural forms. If *Isthmus* resembles a vault, the far smaller sculpture lying on the floor nearby looks like the scale model of a one-storey house filled with a grid of rectangular rooms. Some of these spaces are made of lead, recalling the darkness of *Isthmus*'s exterior. But others are lined with copper, and they give *Bright Night in Dark Day* the warmth of a honeycomb. Moreover, the sculpture's regularity is disrupted as the rooms slope down to the centre. Geometric order gives way to a more organic alternative, capable perhaps of generating life.

'Geometric order gives way to a more organic alternative'

All the same, Houshiary stops well short of introducing overt figurative images into her show. She may call the third sculpture *Cube of Man*, but it turns out to be more like a tower. Composed of units as repetitive as Brancusi's *Endless Column*, the sculpture is again made of lead. This time, though, the material is enlivened by a mother-of-pearl sheen, and the top and bottom of each projecting unit covered with gold leaf. The tower therefore takes on a gleaming, bullion-like allure, but Houshiary has no intention of equating her sculpture with acquisitive values. Like *Isthmus* before it, *Cube of Man* leaves us in the end with a sense of incorporeal mystery: the tower terminates just before the ceiling, allowing the gold-leaf apex to cast a luminous disc of yellow light on the white plaster above.

Houshiary's preoccupation with disembodied colour may be leading her, for a while at least, away from sculpture. Her other room, on a lower floor, is given over entirely to a series of large mixed-media drawings.

The forms within the five images hover on the walls like planets floating in the cosmos. They give the space the aura of a chapel, fine-

tuned for meditation. Each of the pictures contains either a circle or a square, and they are all surrounded by outer areas of darkness. Deep green is the predominant colour, but every image is handled in a different way.

Seen from a distance, one of the circles seems to hold concentric rings inside it, reminiscent of a target. Close to, however, the rings dissolve into a myriad of small, stippled strokes. Other pictures contain vestiges of dark squares, spots or chessboard patterns. But they also resist detailed analysis, emitting softly glowing colours in tune with the spirit of the poem displayed just outside the room. Written by the 13th-century Sufi poet Rumi, the prayer-like lines reinforce the gentle affirmation of Houshiary's vision:

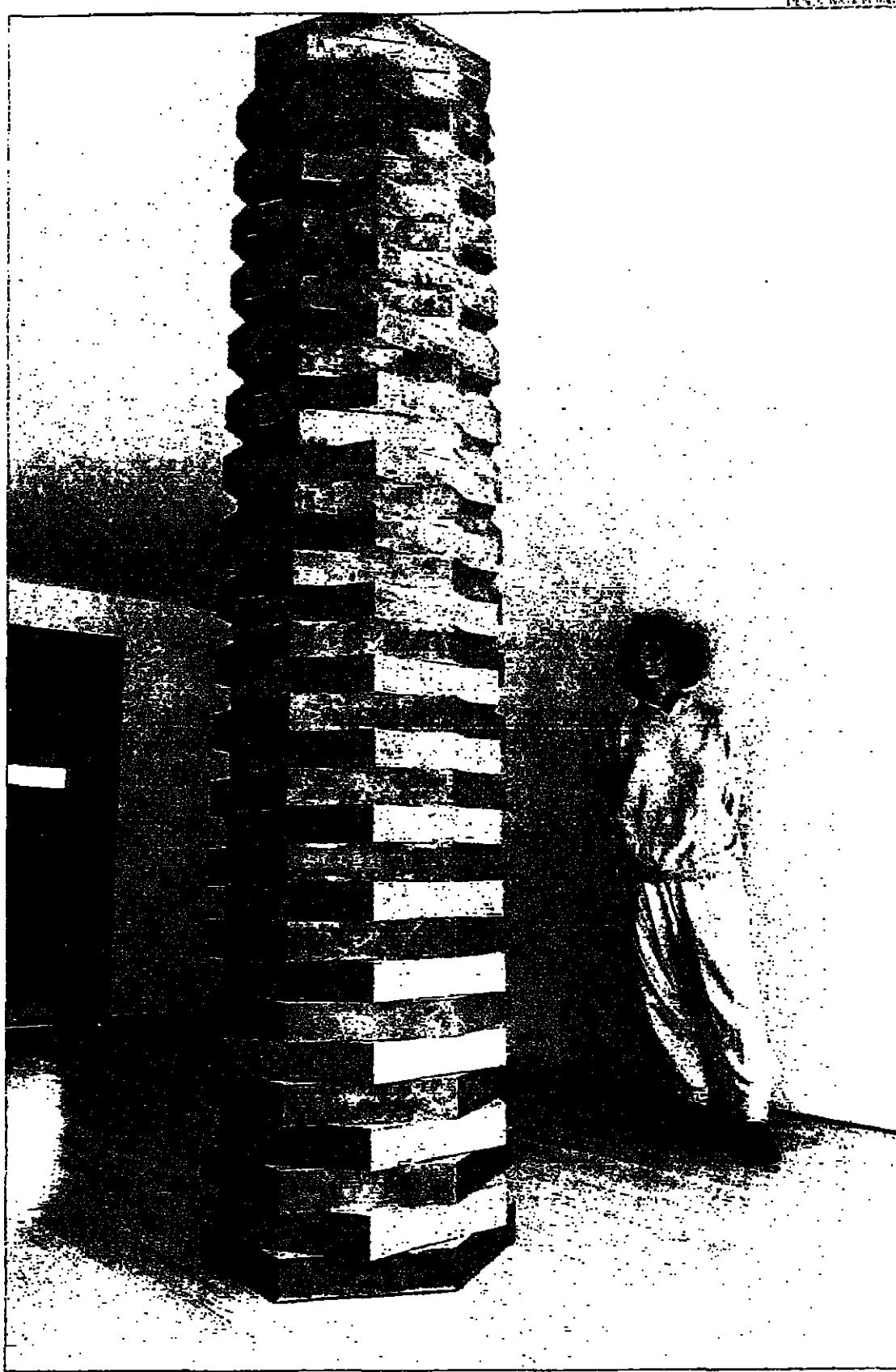
Walk to the well.
Turn as the earth and moon turn,
circling what they love.

Other women artists are also making their mark in London at the moment. Rose Finn-Kelcey, one of only five artists representing Britain in this year's mammoth "Documenta" at Kassel, has installed an eerie work in the white, factory-like space of the Chisenhale Gallery. Working in collaboration with the engineer Steve Stead, she has produced an installation made almost entirely of steam.

As we walk down the passage leading to the main gallery space, the exhibit first manifests itself as sound. The hiss of rushing air is heard, released in energetic bursts. Then, as we turn the corner into the room, the source of this insistent noise becomes dramatically apparent.

Steam billows up from a rectangular metal container in the centre of the floor. Spilled from several sides, it takes on the thickness of smoke while rising towards a metal hood. A suction mechanism must be built into the hood, preventing the steam from spreading outwards. For we find ourselves drawn towards these mesmerising walls of air, and our own bodies become part of the work as the lights fling our shadows across the corners of the gallery.

On one level, this strange installation seems intent on countering the starkness of the surrounding room — just as Houshiary offsets coldness with warmth in *Isthmus*. But Finn-Kelcey also manages to evoke some remorseless, grueling work-process:



Shirazeh Houshiary with *Cube of Man*: a work of bullion-like allure and incorporeal mystery

steam-filled kitchens servicing gargantuan customer demand in a restaurant beyond, or a colossal machine forever pressing clothes.

There is something oppressive about the endless, pointless generation of all this hot air, and yet the sheer spectacle commands respect. An almost theatrical experience is created with the most ephemeral of means. They become, against all the odds, a source of wonder.

Finn-Kelcey's memorable show is part of Edge 92, an "international biennale of innovative visual art"

staged in assorted East End locations. Perhaps inevitably, the event as a whole is an uneven affair. Hannah Collins's film installation in Trumans Brewery had broken down on the day it arrived, and Dorothy Cross's work in the underground lavatories at Commercial Street is overpowered by the stench and dilapidation of its setting. Nek Chand Saini's installation of figures and animals in Exchange Square, Broadgate, suffers from an inappropriate location, but Helen Chadwick is effectively placed in the

T.A. Hilliard Unit at Spitalfields Market. While a programmed hammer intermittently crushes strawberries, four wall-works make angry declarations against a backdrop of smeared red sweetness. The blighted site, under perpetual threat of demolition, chimes only too well with this disquieting lament.

Shirazeh Houshiary continues at the Lisson Gallery (071-724 2739) until June 20. Details of Rose Finn-Kelcey and the rest of Edge 92 are obtainable from 148 Brick Lane, London E1 (071-377 2676).

ARTS BRIEF

Director stabbed

JUZO ITAMI, the Japanese director of the comedy film *Tampopo* and *A Taming Woman*, has been ambushed and stabbed in the face in Tokyo. The attack came six days after the opening of his new film, *The Gangster's Wife*, an expose of the "yakuza" — the Japanese Mafia — with advice on how to resist their extortion and intimidation. The yakuza was declared illegal earlier this year, but still exercises great influence in politics and business. Police have said Itami was punished for ridiculing the organisation.

Greek appeal

NEVER one to shrink from championing a cause, Melina Mercouri — the temperamental Greek actress turned politician — is in London this month for a charity concert. Nothing to do with the Elgin Marbles this time, however: the former Greek minister of culture will be appearing at Wembley Arena on June 27 for an "Aid for Cyprus" event, part of a campaign calling for reunification of the island. Also in the concert will be one of Greece's leading singer-songwriters, George Dalaras.

Tolstoy danced

THE MARYINSKY Ballet in St Petersburg has raised the odd balletic eyebrow by turning to a Western choreographer (albeit one of Russian parentage) in order to stage a classic Russian subject: *Anna Karenina*. He is Andrei Prokoviev, born in Paris and London-based for most of his dancing career. His treatment of Tolstoy's novel has a score adapted by Guy Woolfenden from Tchaikovsky's music. It was created in 1979 for the Australian Ballet, with Galina Samsova in the title role. The St Petersburg premiere is set for January 28, 1993.

Last chance

LORENZO de Medici ("Il Magnifico") died 500 years ago, and an exhibition organised by the Italian Institute in association with the Warburg Institute marks the anniversary. It concentrates particularly on his role as a patron, collector and arbiter of taste. But he is also placed in the wider context of the Italian Renaissance and much is done to explain the commanding position of Florence at this period. Last showing today at the Italian Cultural Institute, 39 Belgrave Square, SW1 (071-235 1461), 9.30-5.

LONDON CONCERTS

Untimely top notes

Sumi Jo/
Raul Gimenez
Barbican

THE London Opera Festival, which used to be little more than a sponsors' umbrella for existing operatic events in the capital, with the addition of one or two refugees from defunct festivals, is beginning to develop a distinct and lively profile of its own. The more they then, that this year's generally enterprising festival should start with an event which did little to reflect the state of the art, and everything to reinforce the negative images and prejudices which still exist.

Sumi Jo and Raul Gimenez in Concert promised an evening of bel canto from two energetically promoted practitioners. It delivered little more than a caricature. The Argentine tenor, Gimenez, has an open-throated, open-hearted immediacy of communication, finely tuned and tempered by a minutely cultivated coloratura technique of great lights and great shades.

The sometimes predictable perfection of his artistry was, however, at best thrown into artificially harsh relief, at worst rudely undercut, by the clumsy and inept accompanying of Nina Walker. When singer and pianist fail even to reach the end of a song together, farce is not far away. The Bellini, Donizetti and Rossini of Gimenez was interleaved with the Rossini, Ardit and Donizetti of Sumi Jo. The Korean soprano has a voice of such startling purity, perfection of pitch and mercurial



Sumi Jo: a soprano voice of striking purity and agility

agility that she invariably steals away the wits of all who hear her.

She is an unsurpassable Queen of the Night and Olympia; but her recent Elvira in Covent Garden's *I Puritani* showed the voice's limitations in strength, stamina and expressive scope. She wisely left Bellini alone in this recital and offered a clutch of Rossini

arias and an "O luce di quest'anima" (Donizetti) of wind-up-and-go perfection. Bel canto, though, should concentrate and liberate music's power to move, not substitute for it. This concert seldom rose above the empty exhibitionism of the art at its lowest ebb.

HILARY FINCH

Echo of the past

I Fagiolini
Christ Church
Spitalfields

AS MUSICAL taste has reverted to the Renaissance, so a body of composers has emerged which favours a language directly descended from the Renaissance via the 19th century. Many are young: in Britain John Tavener, whose ritual *Eis Thanaton* will be heard at the end of this Spitalfields Festival, is their senior representative. But whoever they are, they tread a dangerous path, risking a charge of reactionism if their music fails to light a spiritual candle.

On Monday, the seven young singers of the vocal ensemble I Fagiolini gave works by two such composers. One, Ivan Moody's *El Amor y la Sierra* (1991), four carefully

considered settings of texts by Lorca, Machado, the 15th-century poet Gil Vicente and an anonymous contemporary, just failed to seek out those magic corners of the soul. Consequently, despite the composer's imaginative use of medieval-sounding techniques and sonorities, the music seemed a touch worthy, though also beautiful and with a delicious Hispanic flavour.

On the other hand, Gabriel Jackson's *Enchantment* (A Modern Madrigal), receiving its first performance, enfolded the audience with dignified, tragic power. Richard George Elliott's text which, I Fagiolini's director Robert Hollingworth stressed, had been part and parcel of the commission, parodies a medieval courtly love song in sentiment if not form; but the discarded lover in whose person it is written comes from today and has strayed. The lines "I have poisoned your blood/and betrayed you in ways you have yet to imagine" could as well be literal as metaphorical in these risky times.

Jackson's responses sometimes err on the side of naivety — strident parallel intervals for strident emotions, and sour-sweet major-minor clashes all the way through — but his music, mostly syllabic and choral, breathes intuition and genuineness. The composer knows he has something to say, and he says it with directness and clarity. He affects us because most of us are familiar with his subject in one way or another.

For the rest, I Fagiolini sang various polyphonic chansons, beginning slightly uncertainly balanced with Josquin's touching lament *Cueurs desolez*, but settling well for the same composer's great elegy for Ockeghem, *Nymphes des bois*. In Gombert's *Changeons propos* they failed to keep the busy six-part texture adequately light but for Arcadelt's *En ce mois délicieux* and Sermisy's lovely *Au joli boys* they showed a promising delicacy and poise, while Janquin's *La Chasse* was pure theatrical indulgence.

STEPHEN PETTITT

The Spitalfields Festival continues until June 26, when the final concert will be the London premiere of John Tavener's *Eis Thanaton*. All performances are at Christ Church, London E1 (071-377 1362).

TELEVISION REVIEW

Science hell-bent on holding power

Like a palatial Wurlitzer organ piercing the Moscow sky, the Gosplan building, heart of the former Soviet Union's grand economic plan, dominated last night's first instalment of *Pandora's Box* (BBC 2), a series of "six fables about politics and power in the age of science". From one window, a beaming planner looked down upon the scurrying pedestrians. Each one different, he remarked to camera; but all reassuringly subject to the same immutable rules of behaviour: "as iron as the laws of nature".

I was reminded of Isaac Asimov's *Foundation* books in which the course of the universe is mathematically plotted by a brilliant psycho-historian. Yet this was sober truth, not whimsical fiction. So resolutely has the world turned its back on deterministic views of history in the last decade, that one easily forgets how basic such views have been to much 20th century thinking.

Adam Curtis's film explored the Soviets' 70-year fascination with planning, and its perverse ideological debt to science, with a panache that augurs well for the series. Lenin's belief that "communism is Soviet power plus electricity" sowed the seeds of an appalling technocracy: society was seen as a controllable machine and man a component to be rationalised. Scientists were the pioneers of this new revolutionary age, a powerful priesthood who pondered the mysteries of social engineering to the strains of bleak, electrically-generated "rational music".

With splendid cheek, the film inter-cut footage of this dead-end culture with snatches of punk rock and footage of post-glacial disorder.

Inevitably, the Bolshevik masters saw fit to bring the scientists to heel from time to time. In 1930, Stalin rounded up 2,000 of them and claimed they were plotting to subvert Bolshevik rule. Such was the mystic power of science that its practitioners could be plausibly denounced as a threat to the state.

The obsession with scientific planning yielded absurdity as well as terror. A laundry had to give the state an annual quota of scrap metal because of a mix-up. The po-faced managing director of funeral services for Moscow explained that his department assumed a 1.1-1.3 per cent annual mortality rate among Muscovites.

"It's a bit of a joke," said one of his employees wryly. "Let's say the plan tells us to make a thousand coffins. If only 800 people die, we still have to make the other 200 coffins." Strangest of all in the tale was the role of America, so often the source of the new magic. Cybernetics, town-planning from Gary, Indiana, and computerisation: all were imported and transformed from tools of enterprise into tools of control. One marvelled at the capacity to mutilate knowledge as the film closed with the introduction of the free market: yet another panacea for the Russian people to cope with.

MATTHEW D'ANCONA

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LES ACHATS

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Lalique's new jewellery

FOR those to whom Sunday lunch in summer would not be complete without the delicate flavour of asparagus, at last there is a simple solution to the problem of tough stems and soggy spears. Lagostina's specially designed *cuit-asperges* allows the stems to cook quickly at a high temperature while keeping the tips out of the water. Priced at FF660, the stainless-steel device is available from Jassier Paris, 42 Avenue des Fourbis, Avignon; A la grosse chaîne, 59 Rue des la République, Toulouse, and Galeries Lafayette, 40 Boulevard, Haussmann, Paris.

LOVERS of French design who are planning on motor-ing through the South this summer should make a detour on to the road between La-Cole-sur-Loup and Saint-Paul-de-Vence to stop at the old village station which is now transformed into Les Couleurs du Temps. The new shop stocks an eclectic selection of furniture, china and fabrics, including Biot glassware and furniture. The shop also has a permanent exhibition of Pierre Basset tiles. Les Couleurs du Temps, 1119 Route des la Colle, 06570.

SUSAN BELL

As a child, Libby Purves spent three years in Lille. The lessons she learnt have lasted



Different schoolyards, different children, different manners, a different age: a scene from the 1960s, but with lessons for the present

An intent cordiale



FRANCE, for most Britons, is the first foreign land and her language the first foreign tongue. Sorting out the junk at the back of the mind's wardrobe, most people can find French bits and pieces left over from childhood history or adolescent exploration. A verse of "Frère Jacques", croissants, piscois, Madame Defarge, spiky handwriting on a letter ending "Veuillez agréer, cher monsieur"; Maurice Chevalier, Brigitte Bardot, the Eiffel tower, snails, the illustrations in the old *Madame Souris* first French reader...

We are bound together: down the corridors of history France has been everything foreign to us, everything alien and exciting. Before we are 15 we know that she has been enemy and ally, exile and refuge.

So our response to France has little to do with contemporary squabbles, social chapters and lorry-loads of lamb. It is richer and more complicated than that. And, I submit, a great deal of it is childish, and none the worse for that. Just as children learn languages rapidly and naturally, so they often see more penetratingly into the soul of a country, and appreciate its difference. For years there have been private exchanges, school visits, *au pair* arrangements: the children have met and compared notes, and maybe come to a better understanding than their elders.

I had, for three years, a French childhood. It began in the late 1950s, when I was eight. As a diplomat's child I had spent my infancy in the Far East and Israel, but in the three years before we moved to Lille I was a thoroughly English child in an English village school. It was all I could properly remember, and France hit me with the same force of strangeness as it would any English child.

We lived in a courtyard — 1 Rue du Lombard — with stone lions around a

forbidden miniature garden, and within a year or two I was allowed to take the tram home from school by myself, picking up a *croque Monsieur* on the way.

These were the years of Algerian terrorism in France, and once I rounded a corner to see a man lying, newly shot dead, with a crowd around him. I took judo classes with the children of M Hirsch, the *préfet* of the Nord department, and our instructor was a policeman who was forever having to cancel classes because he was on a course, learning the art of defusing the new plastic bombs.

Once, after judo, the *préfet* found that his official guest, a British minister, was on his way to a Foreign Office cocktail party at our house, and with true French practicality climbed up to the children's quarters and ordered me into the official limousine for a lift home.

As we screeched through the streets with our motorcycle outriders, I vaguely remember giving Sir Keith Joseph — for it was he — a throw-by-throw account of my green belt test. I am not sure that I did not grip his lapels to demonstrate the *revêtement de manche*, a particularly nifty hip-throw. My parents, standing primly on the front step in white gloves to receive their guest, almost passed out on finding him preceded by a tousled daughter in a canvas judo suit.

But all this came later, when I was already a seasoned French schoolchild, able to swagger assuredly between fierce sessions of *le sport* and formal

fingerbowl lunches at the *Préfecture*. It took a little time to learn all that. The school, a convent at 66 Rue Royale, was entered through a great pale wooden door, like a castle, and took me in with great confidence and dispatch. For the first term, an elderly nun was brought out of retirement to teach me French for an hour each day, for the rest of the time I joined a normal class. The experience has left me with an abiding anger about those child immigrants to this country who are treated both less considerately and more timidly, and barely taught their host language.

After three terms, I was passing ordinary tests in French grammar with the others; and so were my younger brothers, down the road with the Jesuits. I was confirmed in the Church of St Maurice in full bridal rig and became another *petite écolière*.

As for the customs of school, I soon learnt to drink my bottled beer with school lunch (one litre between eight), to curtsy, to wear an immaculate dark-blue tunic for gymnastics and a white one for rhythmic dancing; always to protect my clothes with a long-sleeved overall; to shake hands when I met my best friend each morning, and to be constantly the subject of that old French tradition of bourgeois childbearing, *la surveillance*. Reading Charlotte Brontë's *Villette*, years later, I completely understood the Belgian schoolmistress's emphasis on constant watching of the girls; and also the freeborn

Englishwoman's scorn at such a lack of trust. But at the time, it did not seem odd. I was *un enfant*, and therefore watched, and made to line up for my weekly report or "note". *Très bien. Bien. Assez bien*, or — utter disgrace — *Médiocre*.

On the whole, it was my parents who found French child society the strangest. An invitation to tea would be written out formally. Once, when there was a craze about biology, my friend Véronique sent me an invitation requesting the pleasure of the company of Mlle Purves *pour le goûter et pour discuter un ver*. We did just that: had tea (triangular sandwiches, a piece of yellow sponge cake), put on our overalls and dissected a worm.

On holiday, we would sometimes meet other friends lunching, perhaps, endlessly and formally around a table with three or four generations including some formidable grandmother to whom all deferred. At the beach, we played like ordinary British children, but saw our French contemporaries firmly herded for the day into the enclosure marked Club Mickey.

By and large, we adapted. It was always strange to go back to England, though, where the children seemed so big and blond and undisciplined, never curtsying even to bishops. The France I knew may have gone now, changed without recognition, Americanised itself. But it remains the childhood of countless French bourgeois who are now my age, negotiating in the EC or doing business with the British. Perhaps we should try to understand one another better.

Perhaps many of us do already. Has this jogged your memory? Were you an exchanged child, an *au pair*, or in a memorable school party? Was there a time when you saw and appreciated our differences with a clear, young eye? Did a French child — recently or long ago — come into your house and find you odd? Can you cast anecdotal light upon the gulf between us? If so, write,



Libby Purves: at confirmation

Properties of the week



WHAT YOU CAN GET FOR

£11,000 TO £15,000

The pair of farm cottages below, for sale at £11,000 (including agency fees) is situated in a hamlet not far from the old town of Ambazac in the Limousin region of central France. It can be reached in about two and a half hours by car from Calais. The stonebuilt cottage (left) is habitable, with water and electricity, but needs modernisation, including the installation of a bathroom. It has a living room and kitchen on the ground floor, two bedrooms upstairs, with exposed beams and open fireplaces, a large attic suitable for conversion and a cellar for storage. The rear garden, bordered by a river, is secluded, with views over open countryside. The other cottage is prettier, but in a worse state. It needs rewiring, replumbing and the installation of a septic tank. There is one large room, with an old bread oven, downstairs; two bedrooms on the first floor; and an outbuilding for storage. The price includes a good chunk of land used for growing vegetables. The UK agent is Barbers 427-429 North End Road, Fulham, SW6 (071-381 0112).



£11,000

Set in the beautiful Canche Valley, about an hour from Boulogne, the attractive farmhouse below is a bargain at £14,500 (including agency fees). The area is rustic and unspoilt. The detached property, set in its own grounds with a courtyard, small garden, terrace and garage, has been restored, and so is ready to be moved into. It has a living room, kitchen and dining room, with new shuttered windows; two bedrooms and wc. The UK agent is Spratley & Co, 60 St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-240 2445).



£14,500

The Dordogne is more expensive than other parts of south-west France. However, prices slip north and east of Périgueux. For £14,950 (including agency fees) you can buy this large stone house situated on the outskirts of a small town, not far from Nontron, a 90 minute drive from the airport at Bordeaux (about seven hours from Calais). There is a road to the front and side of the property, and the rear garden slopes down to a small river. The house is in good repair, but some work is needed on the roof. It comprises a large entrance hall, kitchen, and three large reception rooms, with old oak parquet floors, at ground level. An impressive stone staircase leads to the first floor, with four bedrooms and two bathrooms. There is also a loft suitable for conversion and a wine cellar. The UK agent is Latitudes, 14 Pipers Green Lane, Edgware, Middx (081-958 5485).

CHERYL TAYLOR



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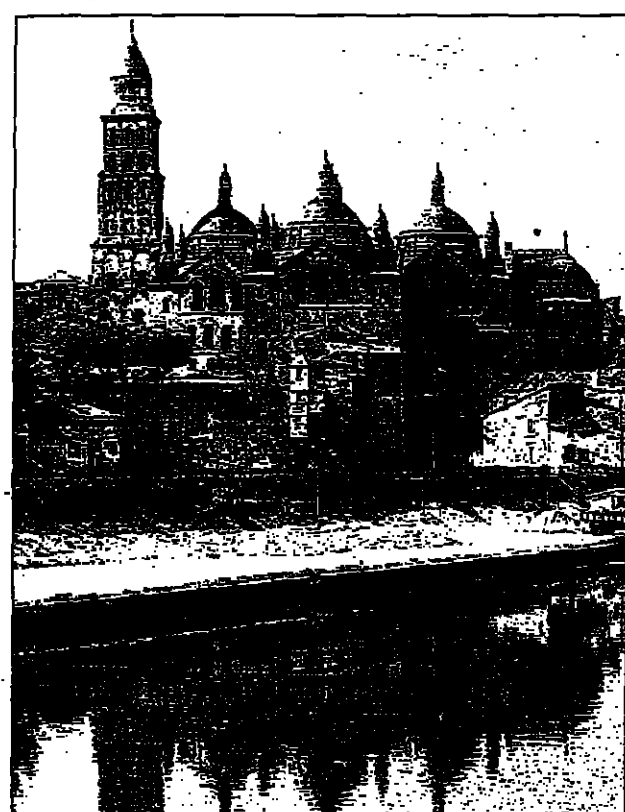
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TOWN OF THE WEEK: PERIGUEUX

Périgueux, the capital of the Dordogne, is as plump and promising as the foie gras that has made this regional agricultural city famous. The medieval quarter around the Cathédrale St Front oozes atmosphere and the architecturally important Place St Louis is calm and shaded by lime trees in the afternoon but bustling in the evening, when the floodlit cafés and restaurants burst into life.

The narrow alleyways, with their steep stone steps and cobbled paths, twist and turn and throw up surprises on almost every corner. A hotch-potch of architectural facades is evidence of how courtyards, squares and alleyways sprung up, were demolished and then rebuilt over the centuries. In Passage Daumesnil the buildings lean against each other and in the nearby Rue de la Constitution it is possible to see crocked arched doorways, corbelled turrets, mullioned windows and



Oozing atmosphere: afternoon calm in Périgueux

gates and balconies representing the finest 15th, 16th and 17th-century workmanship. The city's most famous son is probably General Pierre Daumesnil. A soldier, he followed Emperor Napoleon to

Arcola in Egypt and Wagram, where he lost a leg in the fighting.

In 1814, while governor of the Vincennes fortress, he shouted to the enemy besieging the castle: "I'll surrender

when you give me back my leg."

The houses which once belonged to merchants and traders are today a mixture of shops, restaurants, hotels and private residences. Lipsick-red geraniums tumble from window boxes and mouth-watering delicacies are lined up like soldiers in shop windows.

Rue Limogeane is crammed with food shops including a Vietnamese sandwich shop. One of the best is the *fromagerie* which specialises in goat's cheese made on local farms. Every conceivable shape and size of cheese can be found in neat rows. On the other side of the street is a gift shop specialising in modern and antique perfume bottles. In the web of streets there is an artist's shop selling water colours by a local painter depicting scenes from the city and surrounding countryside. Antique shops nestle on corners and foie gras, truffles and pâtés can be found in most shops.

In the winter months connoisseurs flock to the Saturday market in Place de la Clautre for the truffle stalls. In the summer there is also a market on Wednesdays.

The wide range of restaurants signals the cosmopolitan side of Périgueux. The last time I checked, there were three Vietnamese, one Ameri-

can, a Greek, a Chinese, several Italian and lots of French cuisine.

The old centre is dominated by its unusual cathedral. Dedicated to St Front, the first bishop of Périgueux who converted the pagans to Christianity, it is one of the largest on south-west France and one of the most curious. Its five domes shine over the brown-roofed houses and the short minarets point skywards like bayonets poised for battle. All are overshadowed by the great bell tower with its almost comical spire.

The skeleton of Régourdou man, approximately 70,000 BC, and Chancelade man, dated to 500, are on display at the museum, as are the Gallo-Roman remains of the ancient town of Vesunna, which occupied the site now

known as the Cité area of Périgueux.

The ancient arena is now a public park, but in its heyday it was one of the largest amphitheatres in Gaul, with room for 20,000 people. Great blocks of stone still mark the stairwells and the vaulting.

Along the river, beside the quays, the 500-year-old merchants' houses are still inhabited. The old mill still stands, all that remains of the granary of the St Front chapter which used to hang right over the river.

Whether the visitor has one day or a week, the history of Périgueux can be traced and enjoyed through its streets. In July and August the Syndicat d'Initiative runs excellent guided tours.

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Major Rhonda Cornum: has disclosed her abuse at the hands of her Iraqi captors

Crossing the front line

For more than a year Major Rhonda Cornum kept her silence. Only her family and the US Army debriefers knew the truth — that she had been brutally sexually assaulted by her Iraqi captors during the Gulf war. This week, she found a good reason to speak out about her ordeal.

She was giving evidence to a presidential commission on the role of women in the military, a commission which senior Democrats say is heavily biased against allowing female soldiers any closer to the front line than at present. As a helicopter pilot, and one of the two female prisoners in the war, Major Cornum's testimony will have great weight in any decision to change the combat rules.

She told the commission she was violated by Iraqi guards. The assault was made more distressing by the fact she had broken both arms and a knee as the helicopter crashed in enemy territory.

This account was very different from the one the 36-year-old pilot gave soon after returning from Saudi Arabia. Then she told reporters: "I was not tortured. I was not beaten," and the worst that had happened to her was being pulled by the hair and kicked

Being taken prisoner may be an occupational hazard of war, but should women expect chivalry.

Kate Muir asks

from behind in the initial minutes of her capture. This extreme watering down of the truth must have been condoned by the American defence department — information on the torture of the 21 American male prisoners of war was also delayed during post-war euphoria.

Later, it all came out. The men, mostly pilots, were given electric shocks, kicked, beaten with rubber hoses and made the subject of mock executions during interrogations. The impression was still given, however, that Major Cornum, and a captured truck driver, Army Specialist Melissa Rathbun-Nealy, had benefited from Muslim chivalry towards women.



Specialist Melissa Rathbun-Nealy (right): beaten

The first reports said that Specialist Rathbun-Nealy had been treated so well she put on weight, and her parents said the Iraqi told her she was a hero "as brave as Stallone and as beautiful as Brooke Shields". Only after some time was it said that she had been kicked and beaten by the soldiers who captured her.

An army spokesman said this week that the sexual assault on Major Cornum had not been disclosed "because of sensitivity and privacy". Yet Major Cornum, a strong advocate for the opening up of all military jobs to women, decided her experience mattered to the debate.

She stood before the commission in her dress uniform and service medals and said

that the possibility of sexual assault should not keep women from serving in combat. Being raped by the enemy "should be considered an occupational hazard of going to war".

Carolyn Becraft, a former soldier and longtime Congress lobbyist for women soldiers, says: "Rhonda's attitude is that she's a grown woman, she's doing what she wants to do, and she knows the risks. She wants to be the best she can be, and thinks the restrictions are silly."

Last year, the Americans withdrew the law which banned women from becoming fighter pilots or flying helicopter gunships, much to the consternation of President Bush (a former second world war pilot) and the far-right of the Republican party. The performance of 33,000 women in the Gulf war helped to push the change through in America and in Britain, where the flight combat ban was also dropped. Ms Becraft and the National Organisation for Women assumed that the barriers were down, and it would not be long before the laws banning women from sea and ground combat would go, too.

"But we forgot it was election year," Ms Becraft says. Some Republicans in the Senate wanted to stall the female fighter pilot programme, and set up the Presidential commission which has until November to report. So women pilots, like Major Cornum, who welcomed the chance to take their careers further, were held on the starting line.

The frustration was enough to make her speak frankly, as was the composition of the commission which includes retired generals and the vice president of the far-right Heritage Foundation, as well as Elaine Donnelly who ran the Coalition for Military Readiness when it spearheaded the campaign against women in combat. Democratic Representative Pat Schroeder, after proposing more than a dozen names to the White House, all of which were rejected, said: "The composition is a complete disappointment. Women in the military will never get a fair shake because this commission is chock-full of old-school military thinkers. When the commission comes back opposing further gains

for servicewomen, all I will have to say is consider the source."

Yet the fact that a woman POW was sexually assaulted has altered attitudes. The hope that women prisoners are likely to be treated better than men has been dashed. The defence department's recently published report on Desert Storm gave women a glowing three pages in its appendix. "Two women were taken prisoner of war" being the only sentence about the matter.

Ms Donnelly, however, claims that if Congress had known about the sexual assault, the vote to allow women fighter pilots might have gone the opposite way.

"Why did the Department of Defence not tell us this essential piece of information sooner?" she asks. "The American people assumed that being taken a prisoner of war as a woman was not so threatening or troubling, and now we discover there are a lot of questions to be asked. We know Major Cornum was brutally frank in her original debriefing, and we are entitled, however distressing, to know what has gone on."

Ms Donnelly also pointed to military research into coping with being a prisoner of war which show that men react

'Rhonda's attitude is that she is doing what she wants to do'

more severely to the sound or sight of a woman being tortured than they do to a man. "The people running the POW survival courses have made a decision to train men out of this attitude. There are serious implications there, about training large groups of young

men to be insensitive to a woman's pain."

The two women were not the first women POWs — more than a hundred American Army and navy nurses were held for three years in Japanese prisoner of war camps in the second world war, so the debate is not new.

Major Cornum, who is married with a 15-year-old daughter, has now fully recovered from her injuries and is attending a senior officers' course at the Air War College in Alabama. Despite the assault, she thought her treatment could have been worse, but whether that was to do with her sex, or the timing of the capture, remains a moot point. She told the committee: "I think we had a decided advantage because we got shot down on the last day of the war, and I don't think they saw much benefit to interrogating on the very last day of the war when they knew they were losing... we were interrogated, but, you know, they didn't just take rubber hoses and beat us if we said the wrong thing."

"Some other people had some bad times. The guy who got hooked up to the car battery and was buzzed when he gave the wrong answers probably had a bad — a worse time than I did."

All in a day's work

North Sea oil workers must undergo fearsome survival training

To one for whom the attractions of Territorial Army hikes or bungee jumping have always been obscure, the prospect of learning how to escape from a submerged helicopter in a freezing swimming pool, while upside down, is not obviously appealing.

However, I was to visit a British Gas oil rig in the North Sea, and British Gas insists that those visiting rigs attend a one-day offshore survival course. So, I found myself at the Humberside Offshore Training Association (HOTA) in Hull. Last year 3,000 North Sea workers were put through 40 different courses — but its new state-of-the-art facilities, in operation since April, were opened officially by the Princess Royal this week.

The group I joined mingled from experienced technicians on refresher courses to young engineers who had never been off British soil.

The morning was given over to putting on survival suits, performing artificial respiration and showing slides of happy people sliding about in life jackets: this was just a smokescreen for the events of the afternoon. "I'm a bit nervous about the swimming pool," said a heating technician due to go on to the Piper Beta platform in a few weeks. "Basically, I can't swim very well."

During the swimming session trainees are expected to leap off a 16ft platform, shimmy down a scramble net, right a capsized liferaft and get out

of a submerged helicopter, all in a mock survival suit.

"I would like to have this water the same temperature as the North Sea, but we're not allowed," said Mike Gowland, the head of the survival training unit. In the morning, Mr Gowland had been a kindly type, lecturing with his pointer and set of slides about things such as how best to abseil off an oil rig.

Now, standing by the 16ft drop, he had turned into a kind of marine nightmare. "There are three ways off this platform," he told his shivering charges. "Rope, scramble net, or jump. There are no stairs. And if you do not jump in the correct manner, you will have to come back up and do the whole procedure again." So we jumped, we all jumped: even a vertigo-stricken geologist from British Gas who had to take advantage of Mr Gowland's helping push. "Form a huddle. Do your roll call," bellowed Mr Gowland via a microphone, once we were all in.

Wave simulators, smoke simulators, sound effects: all are used by HOTA to give people an idea of what might happen, should the worst occur on a rig. Abandoning platform, a particularly nasty exercise for the five-day trainees, involves leaping off the platform in the dark, while sirens wail and smoke billows. I thought perhaps it might be nicer to be Princess Anne.

ROSIE MILLARD
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The list of people that deaf phone users can contact now runs into volumes.

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Drink preys on the mind

WHEN Boris Yeltsin was challenging the Soviet hierarchy, stories of his drinking were legion, but such is the manipulation of the press in Moscow even today that once he became leader of Russia they have only appeared in foreign newspapers and overseas television.



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttaford

The lay public assumes that the greatest danger of heavy drinking is to the patient's liver, but only in a minority of drunkards is the liver damaged; conversely the danger to the intellect in particular, and the brain in general, is often overlooked and yet is very real.

If Mr Yeltsin's liver functions have deteriorated, he alone will suffer but if his psyche has been affected by chronic alcohol poisoning, and with it the quality of his decisions, millions may be disadvantaged.

The consumption of 22 units a week, which would be considered excessive by the BMA, is unlikely to produce a Korsakoff's syndrome, a Wernicke's encephalopathy, alcoholic dementia, or cerebral atrophy in the average man but heavy drinking such as the man in the bar understands it, over 70 units a week, can cause a wide variety of neurological diseases.

Surprisingly, the existence of alcoholic dementia was disputed for generations by

doctors. The advent of scanning has, however, shown conclusively that excessive intake of alcohol over a long time leads to atrophy of the cerebral cortex, the area of the brain responsible for intelligence and sophisticated behaviour. As the cortex atrophies the personality of the patient suffers; there is loss of memory, particularly for recent events, and irritable and irrational behaviour. Patients find it increasingly difficult to cope happily with the complex relationships in the family or in the community and their uncertain temper can make them a menace in business partnerships or government life.

Many heavy drinkers eat inadequately, in which case the drinking is often associated with thiamine (vitamin B) deficiency. This can produce Korsakoff's syndrome which, when associated with damage to the cranial or peripheral nervous system, is known as the Korsakoff-Wernicke's syndrome. In pure Korsakoff's syndrome there is an absence of recent memory but skills learned before the drinking became a problem remain more or less intact. To compensate for memory loss the patient invents imaginary incidents to fill the void; the result can be startling or amusing but always confusing and sad.

Of Norfolk and typhoid

THE health of the royal family at Sandringham has been newsworthy for 121 years ever since Edward VII, then the Prince of Wales, had typhoid. It warrants a chapter in a book published this month to commemorate the 125th birthday of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Norfolk (Norfolk and Norwich Medicine, £10). The book, by Dr Anthony Bany Shaw, chronicles the remarkable part played in British medicine and public life by doctors either from, or in, Norfolk and Norwich.

In the 17th century, Norwich's Sir Thomas Browne was one of the leading physicians of the day and this eminence has continued into the 20th century; the pioneering work for hip replacements was researched in Norfolk by Kenneth McKee and John Watson-Farrar in the intermediate years Paget, Cooper, Paul, Ringer, all from or working in Norfolk, and many others have given their names to diseases, medications or instruments.

At Sandringham medical emergencies seemed to centre either on heart disease or typhoid, and the devoted care of the royal family has earned knighthoods for two local GPs. Whereas even royal drains were suspect in the 19th century, today Britons have to go overseas to catch typhoid. Until now a course of



Edward VII: typhoid victim

three injections has been needed for protection but the good news is that in July Merieux will produce a single shot typhoid injection, Typhim Vi, which is as efficient as the three-dose regime, with fewer side effects and without needing later boosting. At the same time Evans Medical hope to market a three-dose oral vaccine, Vivotif, for those who cannot stand needles.

Climate of ill health

RESEARCH at the Royal London Hospital Medical College has confirmed the relationship between extremes in the British climate and death from coronary thrombosis and strokes. Patients with arterial disease should avoid becoming chilled in a cold snap, or taking heavy exercise in hot muggy weather.

It is almost universally accepted that persistent gales can play havoc with the temper in susceptible people and in France the mistral is blamed. The Lancet says, for any unexplained malaise or bizarre behaviour, but like the effect of the gales on a Scottish island this belief has never

been scientifically tested. A group of Austrian doctors has, however, recently investigated the medical sequelae of the Tyrolean wind, the Föhn, which blows from the south and is associated with high velocity, strong turbulence and a low humidity; it has traditionally been thought to cause heart attacks and other serious diseases.

Alas for popular belief, careful statistical analysis reported in The Lancet was not confirmed the old wives' tales. However there is a possibility that changes in the atmospheric pressure, which may be associated with the wind, may be relevant.



Read all about it: helpful leaflets are available but GPs seldom offer them to sufferers

What the doctor failed to order

The medical profession seems to have forgotten that patients need information for peace of mind. Virginia Ironside wonders why

There is a story of a patient who went to casualty one weekend with a medical problem; later in the week she consulted her own GP about the same matter. When asked what the person in casualty had said, she replied: "Nothing."

"Nothing?"
"Well, it was that oaf, you see." The GP racked his brains for which person she could be referring to, when she added: "That Hippocratic Oaf which means doctors aren't allowed to tell nobody nothing."

Except for those with exceptionally good GPs, that story will probably ring a bell with most patients. Why is it that, although they may explain a medical problem briefly, even GPs agree that they are unlikely to pass on written information, titles of helpful books or give addresses of self-help groups as part of their service?

When I mentioned the National Asthma Campaign in my agony column, it received over 5,000 enquiries. When Doreen Cope of Arthritis Care — arthritis being the largest single cause of physical disability in the country — receives a similar burst of enquiries engendered by the media, she wonders: "Why on earth weren't they given the information about us by their GPs?"

In September the Patients' Association plans to publish its new Health Directory with about 1,500 addresses of groups that exist to help patients. These organisations deal with everything from endometriosis, incontinence, hypothyroidism, and vitiligo to seasonal affective disorder, myotonic dystrophy and psoriasis... and hundreds of others.

"We feel every GP should have a copy of the book, but even if they do, we know they're often reluctant to pass on information," says Linda Lamont, the director of the Patients' Association. "And their training doesn't help, poor things. They have all these loads of facts dumped on them, instead of being trained to find out how to find things out."

Medical training has conventionally consisted of stuffing a medical student with all there was to know, and then sending him off to practise. At a time when there was very slow progress in medical knowledge this

worked well. But the training has remained the same while the world of medicine is changing very rapidly. Despite a recent General Medical Council document that recommends that students should be taught more communications skills, the medical training can still be archaic.

Roger Higgs, a professor in general practice and primary care at King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry, says: "It's true that doctors very seldom give out names of self-help books, but they do give out a specific treatment. And most doctors feel that when they've offered and explained the treatment that's as far as they can go. Only recently has anyone come to realise that treatment includes information."

He adds: "All professionals do like to feel they're handling their clients' problems as totally as they can on their own. You go to a lawyer and you expect advice on your individual case, not to be referred to law books."

Professor Higgs feels this could change. "When I teach students now

I get them to practice the phrase: 'I don't know or I'm not sure.'"

But recommending groups? Professor Higgs is wary. "Doctors don't have time to check out groups; they may not have personal experience of them."

So where do people get the information from? Friends, media, nurses? Marianne Rigge, the director of the College of Health, is shocked by how little and miss the getting and giving of information can be. "People can be waiting for hip and knee replacements, sometimes for two years, and only after they've had the operation do they realise that there was all this stuff available if only they'd known about it to help them through the agony — advice, facts about waiting lists, aids to pick things up and so on. And yet doctors don't think that's anything to do with them. There's really no excuse. The medical magazine Pulse brings out a yearly directory of groups which goes to every doctor, after all."

Linda Gask is a senior lecturer in

psychiatry at the University of Manchester, whose main interest is in working with practitioners to improve their communication skills. "There's lots of evidence that people come to medical school as quite nice human beings, but the medical education has a detrimental effect on them," she says.

But Professor Higgs feels that there is much to say for the present patient/doctor relationship. "Many people come to us with chaos and want their pain and problems to be made more simple. Helping them to see things in the framework of disease and treatment is one way of steadying things up," he says.

Bob Gann, the director of the Help for Health Trust in Winchester, thinks some doctors' unwillingness to recommend self-help groups or to give written information is partly because they see it as "an erosion of power and mystique and partly because they often underestimate the capacity of patients to take in information and use it for themselves. They want to do the best for their patients but feel it's they who should

deliver it. It's kind of benevolent paternalism."

Ms Lamont goes further. "They often wrongly view too many of their patients as being hopeless, limp individuals. One of our clients, who had recurrent cystitis and was being treated without success, read up on the subject extensively. But when she went to her GP she was virtually ordered 'not to read books.'"

Some doctors simply do not have the information to pass on. Dr Gask says, "It's not unusual to find they're not familiar with quite good information leaflets, and often don't have good links with their local health promotion departments. There's a kind of information block."

Professor Higgs points out that the patient is sometimes to blame for not getting the information. "People complain of not being given information but often they won't ask."

But then patients often worry about asking for information because it seems rude — they might feel they are questioning the doctor's authority if they ask if there is any literature or a group to help.

Since April, the Patients' Charter has resulted in the setting up of 14 Regional Health Information Services, based on Mr Gann's Help for Health model, all obliged to provide information about waiting lists, NHS services, self-help groups, common illnesses and so on. Now in every region there is a local service that will give out such information for the cost of a local phone call.

But will doctors ring it? Of the 10,000 people who rang the Help for Health Trust in 1991, only 400 were GPs and 40 calls were from hospital doctors, 25 from the same person.

Things are changing. The Royal College of Surgeons is producing written information on certain common operations — but when I rang the information office the person there told me that she did not know anything about it. It seemed sadly symptomatic of the whole business.

● Arthritis Care free helpline: 0800 289170. National Asthma Campaign helpline (all calls charged at local rates): 0345 010203

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Tired of 40 winks

By the time you read this, I shall be asleep. I have become the Rip Van Winkle of south London. Some suffer from insomnia; I seem to have gone down with a nasty bout of somnia.

My sleeping sickness began half-way through a camping holiday with three other families last August. Sometimes a thin scum drifted on the water of the Cornish bay. It may not have come from the town round the headland and it may not have caused the mystery lurgi; but something did. In three out of our party's four tents, one miserable camper went down with drowsiness, dizziness and an upset stomach. I was our family's sacrificial victim.

After a day in the sleeping-bag, we were all three of us back on the beach and surfing as keenly as if they were going to make waves illegal. But at home the symptoms recurred as unwelcome souvenirs of the holiday. The working week started, but I wasn't in it. I surfaced briefly, had breakfast and, worn out, retired for a little shut-eye. This was interrupted by lunch, but not much. By early afternoon, I was huddled under the duvet and remained like that until supper. Barely had I rearranged the pillows, than I was out for the count once more.

After that, a few moments of wakefulness occurred, but irritatingly enough, it was too late to get up. Naturally, I overslept next morning, awakening just in time for my mid-morning nap. I began my day when other people were ending theirs, and pretty soon was joining them in the Land of Nod. It was like having just had flu, except that I hadn't just had flu.

The pattern continued. If I did anything like an honest day's work, I felt as if I had

Constant need of sleep was the only symptom...

piloted an ocean liner through a typhoon while simultaneously revising for an exam on microsurgery — and then presented the Budget speech in Parliament. I passed some of my few waking hours by phoning friends at their offices, but they, too, seemed to be off with, as their colleagues



explained dismissively, some sort of sleeping sickness. Being self-employed, I was spared the phone calls from a nagging boss; unfortunately, I was also spared the regular salary that employers pay out even to sick employees. I woke up to the fact that it was time for my first sick note since 1967, so I somnambulated down to the surgery.

"Post-viral fatigue syndrome", my GP wrote on the certificate, an expression which looked better than

"Feeling a bit dozy syndrome". Blood tests showed that I was free from anaemia, leukaemia, hepatitis, malfunctioning liver and wobbly kidney, so we knew what it wasn't. What it was remained unclear. There was no treatment except time. This seemed to be one of those irritating conditions which cure themselves without standing still long enough to be captured and taught at medical schools. Except mine wasn't self-curing.

Our household swears by alternative medicine, so I consulted our homoeopath: I had already seen her, but without much joy. This time the remedy she prescribed (I can't pass on its name — homoeopaths don't always tell you) sent me into an instant slumber. Bloody marvellous, I thought as I drifted off, that's all I need. Yet in the afternoon I got up and have not been to bed since. Apart, that is, from during the normal hours of darkness.

I worked right through the next day and put in some overtime in the evening. I have made the children's breakfast and taken them drinks of water at night. I have been for cycle rides. I have been to the theatre and survived the supermarket. I feel cured.

But how do I know that I have said farewell to the acute dozziness? Am I counting my chickens (or possibly sheep) before they are hatched? A year later, I am getting ready for the next camping holiday: will that bring it back? I am reassured by the fact that last night I had a bout of insomnia. I think I'll celebrate by lying down for a bit, for old times' sake.

JONATHAN SALE
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Law Report June 12 1992 Court of Appeal

Court will not order doctor to treat

In re J (a Minor) (Medical Treatment)
Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Leggatt
[Reasons June 10]

The court would not order a medical practitioner to adopt a course of treatment which in his clinical judgment was contra-indicated as not being in the patient's best interests.

Accordingly where a paediatrician caring for a severely handicapped baby considered that mechanical ventilation procedures would not be appropriate, the court would not grant an injunction requiring such treatment to take place.

The Court of Appeal so held giving reasons for allowing on June 3 the health authority's appeal from Mr Justice Waite who had granted the local authority an injunction on June 3 prohibiting (i) the soliciting of any information relating to J, his parents, foster parents, past and present carers and the local health authorities and (ii) anything leading to identification. Counsel and solicitors are therefore not named.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that J, born in January 1991, suffered an accidental fall when he was a month old with the result that he was profoundly handicapped both mentally and physically. He was severely microcephalic, his brain not having grown sufficiently following the injury. He also had severe cerebral palsy, cortical blindness and severe epilepsy.

He was in general fed by a nasogastric tube. Medical opinion was unanimous that J was unlikely to develop much beyond his present functioning, that that level might deteriorate and that his expectation of life, although uncertain, would be short.

His Lordship paid tribute to the devoted and extensive care provided by the foster parents with whom the local authority, who shared responsibility for J, had placed him. He also referred to the consultant paediatrician's report in December 1991 which had stated that given J's condition it would not be medically appropriate to

intervene with intensive procedures such as artificial ventilation if he were to suffer a life-threatening event.

It was to determine whether such procedures should be given that the local authority had applied to the court under section 100 of the Children Act 1989 and been granted leave to invoke its inherent jurisdiction.

On the hearing of the substantive application before Mr Justice Waite none of the medical evidence favoured mechanical ventilation, although it was clearly possible that some consultant of repute might be found who took a different view. Between the hearing at first instance and the appeal one such was found who took a more optimistic view of the possibility of being able to wean J from such ventilation. It was not clear whether this was a genuine change of view or a mere tactical move.

Before the judge, the health authority and the Official Solicitor had supported the consultant paediatrician's view that artificial ventilation was inappropriate. The local authority, by the majority decision of its sub-committee of elected councillors, and the mother sought an order that the health authority continue to provide all suitable treatment to J including intensive resuscitation.

His Lordship referred to the changed position on the health authority's appeal from the judge's order in that the local authority, having reconsidered its position, now supported the appeal, although the mother sought to uphold the order.

The fact that the matter was being dealt with by means of an interim order, because the mother's advisers wished to have an opportunity of acquiring further expert evidence which would support her view, had undoubtedly coloured the judge's approach.

His Lordship set out the operative part of the judge's reasoning in which he had referred to *American Cyanamid Co v Ethicon Ltd* [1975] AC 396 and had concluded that it was not bound by *dicta* in *In re J (a Minor)* [Wardship: Medical Treatment] (The Times October 23, 1990) [1991] Fam 33, 41, 48 and *In re R (a Minor)* [Wardship: Consent to Treatment] (The Times July 21, 1991) [1992] Fam 11, 26 to the effect that the court would not require a doctor to follow a particular course of treatment since the decision to treat was dependent on the exercise of his professional judgment.

The judge had regarded J's best interests as well as the interests of justice in preserving his life as both pointing in favour of the grant of the interim injunction.

In his Lordship's view, in a matter such as the present, there

was absolutely no room for the application of the principles governing the grant of interlocutory relief laid down in the *Quintanilla* case.

The proper approach was to consider what options were open to the court in the proper exercise of its inherent powers and, within those limits, what orders would best serve the true interests of the child pending a final decision.

There could be no question of "balance of convenience", no question of seeking simply to preserve the status quo, no question of "preserving the subject matter of the action" and manifestly no question of considering whether damages would be an adequate remedy.

The fundamental issue was whether the court in the exercise of its inherent power to protect the interests of minors should ever require a medical practitioner or health authority acting by a medical practitioner to adopt a course of treatment which in the bona fide clinical judgment of the practitioner was contra-indicated in the patient's best interests.

His Lordship could not at present conceive of any circumstances in which that would be other than an abuse of power as directly or indirectly requiring the practitioner to act contrary to his professional duty or to his own conscience.

That duty was, subject to obtaining any necessary consent, to treat the patient in accordance with his own best clinical judgment notwithstanding that other practitioners not called to treat the patient might have formed a quite different judgment, or that the court, acting on expert evidence, might disagree with him.

It had been said in the court below that his Lordship's views expressed in *In re J* and *In re R* were obiter. Remaining of the view that they were a correct expression of the law, he repeated them, as part of the ratio of his present decision.

In those cases he had referred to the co-operation necessary between doctors and parents, or the court, although no one could dictate the treatment to be given to the child, since the decision to treat was dependent on an exercise of a doctor's own professional judgment.

His Lordship said that Mr Justice Waite's order was wholly inconsistent with the law as so stated and could not be justified on the basis of any known authority.

It was erroneous on two other substantial grounds namely (i) its lack of certainty as to what was required of the health authority and (ii) its failure adequately to take account of the sad fact of life that health authorities might on occasion find that they had too few resources, either human or ma-

terial or both, to treat all the patients whom they would like to treat in the way they would like to treat them. It was then their duty to make choices.

The court would have no knowledge of competing claims to a health authority's resources and was in no position to express any view on their deployment.

Although the judge's order was subject to the condition precedent that "the required drugs and equipment are or could reasonably be made available" it made no reference to the availability of staff. It had to be remembered that artificial ventilation of a young child in an intensive care unit was highly intensive of skilled staff. No guidance was given as to what was meant by the concept of being reasonably available, yet circumstances could be imagined in which there could be bona fide differences of opinion as to whether equipment or staff was reasonably available.

The health authority was entitled and did object to being subject to an order with penal consequences in the event of disobedience when it did not know precisely what was required of it.

There was also the problem of what was to happen if it appeared that the mother's expert was willing to subject J to mechanical ventilation. What would then happen would depend on a number of

considerations on which his Lordship was in no position to speculate.

The local authority, and the parents, would have to consider carefully whether they accepted that expert's advice and any advice on the child's transfer to a different hospital before giving their consent to such very different treatment.

The health authority would have a legitimate interest in the decision in the light of its current responsibility for J and other patients for whose care its necessarily limited resources had to be used.

On announcing the court's decision on June 3 his Lordship stressed that the effect of the judge's order being set aside was to leave the health authority and its medical staff free, subject to consent not being withdrawn, to treat J in accordance with their best clinical judgment. That did not mean that in no circumstances should J be subjected to mechanical ventilation.

His Lordship had no doubt that the doctors would all agree that the course could change and that it and when a decision whether or not to use mechanical ventilation had to be taken it would be made in the light of the situation as it then existed.

Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Leggatt delivered concurring judgments.

Informer in case

Regina v Vaillancourt
Before Lord Justice McCowan, Mr Justice Waterhouse and Mr Justice Brooke
[Judgment June 9]

When, on an application, a trial judge ruled that counsel for the defence should be told whether there was an informer in the case and if so the name should be disclosed to counsel but not made public, the police then refused to disclose the identity of the informer even on that limited basis, it was wrong of the judge to announce, without asking for further submissions, that he would change his ruling to the effect that the identity of the informer should not be disclosed.

The Court of Appeal so stated when allowing the appeal of John Vaillancourt against his conviction on January 31, 1992 at Croydon Crown Court (Judge Pullinger) and a jury of possessing amphetamine sulphate with intent to supply, on which he was sentenced on February 28 to 12 months imprisonment, a forfeiture order in the sum of £750 was made and he was ordered to pay £932 prosecution costs. He was also sentenced to concurrent terms of three months imprisonment on his pleas of

guilty on January 29 at the same court to two counts of possessing cannabis resin and cannabis.

Mr Ian Winter, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant, Mr Carlo Talacchi for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE WATERHOUSE said that it was submitted that in the particular circumstances of the case the identity of the informer was essential in establishing the innocence of the accused.

It was, of course, perfectly open for a judge to change his mind, and whether or not he should invite further submissions before announcing the change depended on the circumstances of each case.

In the instant case there had been full argument before the first ruling and nothing new had emerged thereafter except the refusal of the police to co-operate.

If further submissions had been made it might well have been that a convenient formula would have been devised for dealing with the situation, and if the police had refused to co-operate then the trial might have been aborted. It should certainly not have proceeded in the way it did.

Solicitors: CPS, London South.

Scots Law Report June 12 1992

Arbiter is subject to judicial review

Kyle and Carrick District Council v R. Kerr and Sons
Before Lord Penrose

[Judgment April 11]

The obligations of an arbiter were matters of public law and therefore subject to judicial review.

Lord Penrose, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, dismissing an incompetent action by Kyle and Carrick District Council against A. R. Kerr and Sons and another.

Rule of Court 200B of the Act of Sederunt (Rules of Court, consolidated and amended 1986) provides: "(1) an application to the supervisory jurisdiction of the court which immediately before the coming into the operation of this rule would have been made by way of summons or petition, shall be made by way of an application for judicial review in accordance with the provisions of this rule."

Mr Cragin Agnew of Luchanaw for the pursuers, Mr David Stephenson for the defenders.

LORD PENROSE said that the pursuers were bound by an arbitral clause in a lease. The pursuers sought reduction of certain decrees issued by an arbiter appointed thereunder. The defenders contended that the action was incompetent procedure whereby the supervisory jurisdiction could be invoked.

The effect of the decisions in *McNeill v Cable* (1848) 10 D 1297; *Forbes v Underwood* (1886) 13 R 465; *Jerviswood v Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Co* (1853) 15 D 603; *Black v John Williams & Co (Wishaw) Ltd* (1923) 151 R 1; *Burns v British Wool Marketing Board* (1957) 153 R 153 and *Holmes Oil Co Ltd v Pumphreys Oil Co Ltd* (1891) 13 R 1111, 521 was to assert a jurisdiction in the Court of Session to review the proceedings adopted by arbiters and to decide whether decrees had proceeded within the scope of the reference, within the powers conferred upon the arbiter, and in accordance with the interests of substantial justice as reflected for example in the traditional rules of natural justice.

The formulations adopted mirrored to a substantial extent the expressions used in defining and describing the court's jurisdiction over other forms of tribunal and over public and other authorities generally.

In his Lordship's opinion that jurisdiction was of the supervening or supervisory character covered by RC 200B, as a matter of language. The activities of judicial and quasi-judicial bod-

ies were clearly within the scope of the supervisory jurisdiction of the court prior to the introduction of the rule in 1985.

If once introduced judicial and quasi-judicial activities the distinction between arbitration and other forms of judicial and quasi-judicial activity became difficult to define. Arbitrations were not exclusively matters of contract. Statutory arbitrations were common. The argument became progressively one for the exclusion from the scope of the rule of arbitrations arising out of contract.

That was undoubtedly the example selected by Lord Diplock in *Council of Civil Service Unions v Minister for the Civil Service* (1985) AC 374 against the background of English practice and procedure. However, Lord Fraser had been careful to observe in *Brown v Hamilton District Council* (1983) SC (HL) 1 on the divergent jurisdictions in Scotland and England in that field.

Neither as a matter of language nor as a matter of the general context was there any basis for defining a limitation of RC 200B on such a narrow basis as to exclude judicial review of the conduct and decisions of arbiters.

Sagway Food Stores Ltd v The Scottish Poultry Institute (1989) SLT 1311 differed from that view, but had been argued without the citation of relevant authority.

In scope the jurisdiction over arbiters was similar to that exercised over judicial and quasi-judicial bodies generally, and it was equated by the court with the general supervisory jurisdiction applicable to public bodies vested with particular powers.

If a public law focus was a requirement of judicial review it was necessary to consider whether it could be satisfied in the particular case. Classification of laws as between public and private law categories had a long history, even if the demarcation lines had been less than consistently drawn by commentators.

Erdine (*Insurances* 1.1.29) said: "The public law is that which has more immediately in view the public weal, and the preservation and good order of society as laws concerning the constitution of the state, the administration of the government, the police of the country, public revenues, trade and manufactures, the punishment of crimes, etc. Private law is that which is chiefly intended for securing the rights of individuals."

Standing the decision in *Tehrani v Argell and Clyde Health Board* (No 2) (1990) SLT 118, a

public law element was required as a pre-requisite of judicial review, whatever the source of that requirement and whatever its meaning.

The Lordship shared Lord Morrison's reservations in *Royal Bank of Scotland v Chisholm District Council* (1991) SLT 635, about the meaning of the public law test, but a public law focus had to be identified.

There was undoubtedly scope for dispute between the parties to a contract providing for arbitration, as to the nature and extent of the obligations binding on them as a matter of contract.

On the other hand, once an arbiter had accepted office and begun to act, issues arose which involved, which related to the nature of his rights and obligations and the performance of his duties and which could not be resolved solely by reference to the law of contract, even in the case of a renou under a contract. In cases of statutory arbitration, contract might be wholly irrelevant.

Whatever public law content it had, in his Lordship's opinion, to include the general rules of law which defined the jurisdiction of the courts and the fundamental principles governing the administration and dispensing of civil and criminal justice.

It might well be that most cases under these heads would be excluded from judicial review, for example, by the existence of an alternative remedy. But that would have no bearing on the interpretation of a public law test.

Having regard to the view taken by the court of the position of the arbiter, and the amenability of the arbiter's actions to review prior to 1985, his Lordship considered that the actions of an arbiter might be subject to judicial review.

The obligations of fairness between man and man, the obligation to act in accordance with the rules of natural justice, the obligation to decide the issues raised by the parties, and the obligation to decide only those issues, in his Lordship's opinion, were sufficiently matters of public law whatever the source of the arbiter's remit.

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BBC1

- 6.00 CeeFax (26812) 6.30 BBC Breakfast News (42220183)
9.05 Perfect Strangers. American comedy series about two long-lost cousins (r) (6401386) 9.30 Today's Gourmet. Jacques Pepin prepares... (r) (6401386) 10.00 News, regional news and weather (6259947) 10.05 Playdays. For the very young (s) (4472980) 10.25 Stopgap and Tidyup. Animation narrated by Terry Wogan (r) (6252034) 10.35 Discovering Animals. A look at three of Britain's 41 species of mammals... (r) (4522034) 11.00 News, regional news and weather (9073102) 11.05 Travel Show Guides. The second of a two-part look at what southern California has to offer the tourist (r) (645075) 11.35 The Hogan Family. American domestic comedy (659223) 12.00 News, regional news and weather (7127096) 12.05 Summer Scene. Magazine series presented live from the National Garden Festival in Ebbw Vale by Carol Keating and Linda Mitchell (657386) 12.55 Regional News and weather (6005756) 1.00 One O'Clock News. (CeeFax) Weather (84676) 1.30 Neighbours. (CeeFax) (59820183) 1.50 Film: Spirit Image (1982) starring Michael O'Keefe, Karen Allen and Peter Onorati. Solid and sometimes violent drama with O'Keefe as a young college athlete who, through a girlfriend, becomes involved with a dubious religious cult that make him reject his middle-class background. Directed by Konrad (3030134) 3.40 Lifetime. The latest charity news and an appeal on behalf of the Ockenden Venture by Debbie Throver (r) (4997473) 3.50 Henry's Cat. Animation (r) (4485473) 3.55 A Bear Behind (r) (s) (4992928) 4.05 Fantastic Max. Cartoon adventures of a bionic baby (r) (5071706) 4.20 The New Lassie (r). (CeeFax) (5554571) 4.40 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (r) (CeeFax) (4472473) 5.00 Newsround (6931267) 5.10 Troublemakers. Episode two of the six-part children's drama (r). (CeeFax) (9580270) 5.35 Neighbours (r). (CeeFax) (s) (405812). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster (s) (59820183) 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (CeeFax) Weather (763) 6.30 Regional News Magazines (265). Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 European Football Championship. Des Lynam introduces live coverage of the group two match between CIS and Germany from Montopoli. Plus highlights of Scotland's first match in the European finals, against the defending champions Holland, played this afternoon in Gothenburg. The commentators are John Motson and Barry Davies (28490015) 9.10 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (CeeFax) Regional news and weather (592124) 9.40 Film: Running Scared (1986) starring Gregory Hines and Billy Crystal. Entertaining action comedy about two wise-cracking Chicago policemen trying to survive the mean streets long enough to retire and open a bar in the Florida Keys. Directed by Peter Hyams (s) (137305). Northern Ireland: On the Edge 10.20 Film: Airplane!



Battle of wits: jailed footballer Burt Reynolds (11.20pm)

- 11.20 Film: The Mean Machine (1974).
● CHOICE: Robert Aldrich, who directed *The Dirty Dozen*, returned to not dissimilar territory for this tale of a jailed football coach (Burt Reynolds) who raises a team of prisoners for a grudge match against the guards. The film is ostensibly a comedy but anyone expecting an amiable American version of *Porgie and Bess* should be warned that the humour is both black and tough. The football game is the framework for a battle of wits between Reynolds and the brutal warden (Eddie Albert), with each using the contest to make his own points. Aldrich deliberately modelled the Albert character on Richard Nixon, who while the film was being made was in the middle of the Watergate scandal. But despite such hints as the character's devious patriotism and obsessive use of a tape recorder, audiences largely missed the connection (913947). Northern Ireland: 11.40-1.10am Film: The Mummy 1.20am Weather (3194394)

BBC2

- 6.45 Open University Arts — the Great Exhibition (9379541). Ends at 7.10. 8.00 BBC Breakfast News (1312386) 8.15 Westminster. A round-up of business from both houses (6607522) 9.00 Daytime on 2. Educational programmes 9.00 News and weather (5233819) followed by Words and Pictures (r) (42883170) 2.15 Weekend Outlook. A preview of the weekend's Open University programmes (3572819) 2.20 Tennis. Live quarter-final coverage of the Stella Artois championships from Queen's Club, London. The commentators are John Barrett, Mark Cox and Paul Hutchins. Includes news and weather at 3.00 and 3.30 (86939034) 6.40 The Vase.
● CHOICE: In 1845 a drunken theology student entered the British Museum and smashed to fragments one of its greatest treasures, a small glacial vase dating from ancient Rome. A Victorian restorer managed to save the vessel, by now named the Portland vase after a prime minister, and it was restored again in 1948. But 40 years on the glue has failed and the vase is in danger of collapse. Enter Nigel Williams, a young conservator of delicate skill and infinite patience, who spent nine months painstakingly reducing the vase to its 187 separate pieces and building it anew. Williams did this year and this 1989 film from the *Chronicle* series is being repeated in tribute to him. An absorbing documentary intersperses the work of restoration with excursions into the vase's history, all the way back to the Emperor Augustus (r) (516183) 7.30 Spain on a Plate. Marie José Sevilla ends her gastronomic tour of Spain in the southern province of Andalusia. (CeeFax) (541) 8.00 Public Eye: Dyslexia and Crime. Reporter Barbara Altonmyr investigates the link between dyslexia and crime after new evidence has revealed that a startling number of people in Britain's prisons suffer from the condition (8909) 8.30 Gardeners' World. Gardening author and photographer Andrew Lawson talks to Liz Rigby in his garden in Charlbury, Oxfordshire, about the programme's *Garden in Focus* photographic competition (7724) 9.00 Rory Bremner. The last in the series featuring our finest comedy impressionist. With John Bird and John Fortune (s) (7638)



The comic face of impressionism: Rory Bremner (9.00pm)

- 9.30 Words on Film: Xanadu.
● CHOICE: For Simon Armitage, Rochdale is famous for its football club, the Co-op, Grace Fields, Cyril Smith and the Ashfield Valley housing estate. Armitage's concern here is with the last, a 26-block monster built in the idealism of the 1960s and now being demolished to make way for a business park. Armitage is a probation officer whose beat includes Rochdale. He is also a poet and it is a poetic treatment he offers here. His film is a meditation in verse on an edifice which he likens to a lost ship, snaffling him to slip in a reference to the Marie Celeste. Smashed and forlorn, the estate seems already to have sunk and Armitage offers an appropriately sardonic epitaph. In doing so he rounds up some of the last survivors, including the voluble Hungarian-born caretaker and a curious couple who keep fish in the bath. (CeeFax) (s) (16611) 10.00 Have I Got News For You? Inevitable topical quiz chaired by Angus Deayton. This week the regular team captains, Ian Hislop and Stephen Fry, are joined by actor Steve Frost and journalist Stephanie Calman (s) (71541) 10.30 Newsnight with Francine Stock and Jeremy Paxman (942473) 11.15 What the Papers Say. With Christopher Tooke of the *Daily Telegraph* (110522) 11.30 Scrutiny. Iain MacWhirter looks at the week's business in the House of Commons (40744) 12.00 Weather (5168706) 12.05am Film: The Belle of the Alhambra (1959) starring Beatrice Lillie. A Jewish Cuban drama, shown as part of the *Discovering Latin America* season, about a beautiful young actress whose ambition is to play the Alhambra, a 1920s Havana music hall where the audience is strictly male and the songs a source of scandal. In Spanish with English subtitles. Directed by Enrique Pineda Barnet (559435). Ends at 2.00

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (1831763) 9.25 Cross Words. Crossword game show hosted by Tom O'Connor (5490270) 9.55 Thames News (1127367) 10.00 Out of this World. American teenage comedy series (r) (48386) 10.30 This Morning. Magazine presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes French conversation for beginners and Anne Robinson with domestic advice from the Good Housekeeping Institute. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 (48383612) 12.10 Rainbow. Entertaining pre-school learning series (r) (5668873) 12.30 Lunchtime News with Nicholas Owen and Sonia Russell. (Oracle) Weather (651015) 1.10 Thames News (62041454) 1.20 Home and Away. Australian family drama (Oracle) (1813299) 1.50 A Country Practice. Medical drama series set in a small Australian outback town (s) (68175454) 2.20 Highway to Heaven. Appearances again Jonathan and his human sidekick, Mark, come to the aid of four orphan brother on the run from the authorities after being placed in separate foster homes. Starring Michael Landon (1258612) 3.15 ITN News headlines (9155763) 3.20 Thames News headlines (9152676) 3.25 The Young Doctors. Drama series set in a large Australian city hospital (3049939) 3.55 European Football Championship. Eton Wetherby introduces live coverage of Scotland's opening match in their first appearance in the European championship finals. Their opponents are the holders, Holland. In the commentary box at the Ullevi Stadium, Gothenburg, are Alan Parry and Ian St John (s) (85154980) 6.15 Early Evening News with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) Weather (619454) 6.30 LWT News and weather (899763) 6.55 The Day. Twenty-four important hours in the life of an ordinary member of the public (213034) 7.00 Home and Away (r). (Oracle) (9015) 7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle) (367)



Amicable predators: grizzly bears fish for salmon (8.00pm)

- 8.00 Survival Special: In Grizzly Country.
● CHOICE: The message of Joel Bennett's strikingly shot film from Alaska is that while grizzly bears are not cuddly teddies nor are they the vicious killers of popular imagination. Even so, the opening shot of a grizzly's tangle in a huge close-up will probably make most viewers shudder as they only see it on television. There are 30,000 grizzlies in Alaska and despite the occasional horror stories, most of them manage to exist more or less amicably with the human race. Bennett follows the bears through the seasons, starting with their emergence in spring and taking them through to winter retirement. Along the way he treats us to much reliable footage, notably of the rapid, Bob Peck, who is much on television at the moment, provides the commentary. (Oracle) (5251) 9.00 Heartbeat. The last in the likeable drama series set in rural Yorkshire during the 1960s and focusing on a young policeman (Nick Berry) and his doctor wife (Mamie Cusack) (Oracle) (s) (6015) 10.00 News at Ten with Nicholas Owen in the studio and Alistair Stewart in Rio reporting on the closing stages of the Earth summit. (Oracle) Weather (893473) 10.35 LWT News and weather (871096) 10.40 Film: Porky's (1982) starring Dan Monahan and Mark Hellier. A snappy sex comedy, surprisingly successful at the box office, about six teenagers growing up in 1950s Florida. Directed by Bob Clark (24486930) 12.35am Sledge Hammer. Spoof American cop comedy starring David Rasche as an incompetent policeman (8004619) 1.05 The James Whale Radio Show. More controversial chat from the irascible phone-in host (s) (3049939) 2.10 American Gladiators. Tests of strength and ingenuity for both sexes (1945693) 3.05 Entertainment. Movie news from the United States (75841706) 3.35 Raw Power. Rock music videos (8050503) 4.35 The American Match. Highlights of the World Bowl final (r) (6717058) 5.30 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman (47435). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Channel Four Daily (1839305) 9.25 Schools (8405812) 12.00 The Parliament Programme introduced by Anne Perkins (65980) 12.30 Business Daily. News and analysis from the world's financial centres (15473) 1.00 Sesame Street. Early learning series (r) (10528) 2.00 I Love Lucy (b/w). Vintage American comedy starring Lucille Ball as the scatter-brained wife of Desi Arnaz (6541) 2.30 Channel 4 Racing from York. John Oakley introduces live coverage of the 2.40, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.10 races (45218) 4.30 Fifteen to One. Fast-moving knock-out quiz presented by William G. Stewart (s) (980) 5.00 Female Parts: A Different Kind of Love. Winter Alice Thomas Ellis explores what it means to be a mother (r) (Teletext) (6928) 6.00 Blossom. Comedy series starring Mayim Bialik as a 14-year-old girl living in an otherwise all-male Los Angeles household (s) (473) 6.30 Happy Days. American high school comedy set in 1950s Milwaukee. (Teletext) (725) 7.00 Channel 4 News with Ian Snow and Fiona Murch. (Teletext) Weather (604675) 7.50 First Reaction (203305) 8.00 Brookside. Soap set in a suburban Merseyside close. (Teletext) (s) (6305) 8.30 The Music Game. Silly musical quiz chaired by Tony Slattery. Tonight's guests are Lucie Skeaping, Reg Presley and Kate Copstick (s) (5812) 9.00 Cheers. Another round of laughs from the staff and regulars at the Boston bar (r). (Teletext) (5034) 9.30 Garden Club. The team 4 in Grimby where they learn about the connection between wipers, brooms and dwarf onion production and receive tips on carnivorous plants and bog plants. With Roy Lancaster, Matthew Biggs and Linda Gummy. (Teletext) (16639) 10.00 Roseanne. Our portly, wise-cracking heroine is confined to bed with a bad back and the house is in turmoil. Starring Roseanne Arnold, John Goodman and Estele Parsons. (Teletext) (r) (73909) 10.30 Clive Anderson Talks Back. With Nigel Planer, Tim Rice and Kris Alakaus (s) (95358) 11.10 A Stab in the Dark. An eventful look at the week's news by David Baddiel of *The Mary Whitehouse Experience*. Tracey MacLeod and political correspondent Michael Gove (s) (957980)



Benefiting Aids: pop singer Seal joins the party (11.40pm)

- 11.40 Red Hot and Dance. An Aids benefit featuring concert and video footage of leading dance, pop and club acts including Lisa Stansfield, Seal, PM Dawn, Jimmy Somerville, Beats International and EMF. They are performing at dance parties staged in cities across the world (s) (561893) 1.25am The Twilight Zone: Man in the Bottle (b/w). A pawnbroker receives four wishes from a genie in a lamp in the American science-fiction series (7576787). Ends at 1.50

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to identify programme listings when recorded. VideoPlus+ numbers, which allow you to identify programme listings when recorded. VideoPlus+ numbers, which allow you to identify programme listings when recorded. VideoPlus+ numbers, which allow you to identify programme listings when recorded.

SATellite

- Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites. News on the hour. 6.00am Sunrise (2466454) 9.30 Nightline (593211) 10.00am Dayline (18164) 10.30am News (158522) 11.00am Dayline (49980) 11.30am Japan Business Today (4684831) 11.45am International Lingerie Fashion (158212) 12.00pm Good Morning America (72034) 1.30pm Good Morning America (72034) 2.30pm Parliament Live (59454) 3.30pm The Lords (69237) 4.30pm Harmons (1980) 5.00pm Live at 5 (21367) 6.00pm Newsline (5763) 8.30pm Memories (79299) 10.30pm Newsline (22657) 11.30pm ABC News (64959) 12.30am Newsline (59110) 1.30am ABC News (10495) 2.30am Newsline (59110) 3.30am ABC News (10495) 4.30am Newsline (59110) 5.30am ABC News (10495) 6.30am Newsline (59110) 7.30am ABC News (10495) 8.30am Newsline (59110) 9.30am Newsline (59110) 10.30am Newsline (59110) 11.30am Newsline (59110) 12.30am Newsline (59110) 1.30am Newsline (59110) 2.30am Newsline (59110) 3.30am Newsline (59110) 4.30am Newsline (59110) 5.30am Newsline (59110) 6.30am Newsline (59110) 7.30am Newsline (59110) 8.30am Newsline 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